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DA'S Foe INDICTED

Say Hynes rival stole \$10G

By Patrick Gallahee
The Brooklyn Papers

Sandra Roper, an attorney who twice challenged Brooklyn's Democratic political establishment, including District Attorney Charles Hynes, has been indicted on charges she bilked an elderly client out of \$10,000.

She will turn herself in on Monday, June 16, to be arraigned at Brooklyn Supreme Court, sources close to Roper told The Brooklyn Papers.

A special prosecutor will handle the case. Roper's indictment was sealed, but the Daily News reported on Wednesday that her former client, Mary

Lee Ward, 73, of Bedford-Stuyvesant, accused Roper of illegally taking money from an escrow account after promising to represent her free of charge in a dispute with a lending firm. Ward fired Roper in 2001.

Roper, a civil rights attorney from Crown Heights who has served as counsel to the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, is best known for her quixotic campaigns for Brooklyn district attorney, against Hynes, and state Assembly, against Brooklyn Democratic Party boss Clarence Norman Jr.

In 2001, Roper challenged Hynes, in what turned out to be a turbulent campaign.

Shortly after she jumped into the campaign, Hynes successfully had Roper removed from the ballot after charging that her petitions were "gregiously loaded with fraud."

The state Supreme Court ruled that some petitions were "permeated" with fraud and that she was aware that fraud was being committed, a charge she adamantly denied. Roper admitted that some of the signatures had been forged but that it was unbeknownst to her when they were submitted. The appellate court eventually ruled in Roper's favor placing her back on the ballot with only a few weeks left to campaign.

Despite the abridged and ultimately unsuccessful campaign, Roper picked up a re-

See ROPER on page 9

Garson: I'm innocent

By Patrick Gallahee
The Brooklyn Papers

Justice Gerald Garson pleaded not guilty Monday morning to charges that he fixed divorce cases in exchange for cash and gifts, as two women damaged by his allegedly predetermined rulings stood outside the court and demanded justice.

"I got nothing," said Sigal Levi, a mother of five who lost custody of her children to her ex-husband Avraham Levi, another suspect in the case. "They took away my rights as a mother, citizen and human being."

Frieda Haninow, who blew the whistle on Garson in October 2002, said, "He should go to jail for a long time for the people that he hurt."

Haninow said the drawn out court battle with her husband left her broke and so she turned to District Attorney Charles Hynes after fearing she was going to lose custody of her children.

See GARSON on page 9



Sigal Levi outside Brooklyn Supreme Court on Monday.



Macy's sent up a spectacular show, visible from the Brooklyn Heights promenade, on July 4, 2000, when they were last seen there.

HEIGHTS' BIG BANG

Macy's fireworks viewable from promenade

By Patrick Gallahee
The Brooklyn Papers

Brooklyn Heights will host thousands of revelers this July 4.

The 30-minute Macy's Independence Day fireworks spectacular, launching 30,000 aerial shells and special effects, will be set off from two locations, one on the East River off Manhattan's 34th Street and the other just below South Street Seaport, making the Heights promenade, the uplands of the piers, Fulton Landing and Empire-Fulton Ferry State Park prime viewing areas.

The Macy's July 4 hotline announces: "Prime viewing area is between Joralemon Street and Cranberry Street at the Brooklyn Heights promenade and Furman Street from At-

lantic Avenue to Cadman Plaza West."

"I don't think any residential neighborhood wants to be inundated with crowds on a daily basis, but it's a holiday," said Judy Stanton, executive director of the Brooklyn Heights Association. "As long as it's a quiet, responsible group, and they don't litter and they don't leave a lot of garbage around, I think most residents are excited to see the fireworks."

A spokeswoman for Macy's said there have not been fireworks viewable from the promenade since 2000.

Police at the 84th Precinct, which includes Brooklyn Heights, DUMBO and Fulton Ferry, are battering down the hatches all along the waterfront from DUMBO to Atlantic Avenue and they warn that driving to the area on July 4 would be an exercise in futility.

"Public transportation is critical," said Inspector Christopher Rising, commanding officer of the 84th Precinct. "The biggest mistake you could make is thinking you can get in your car and drive down to the promenade to see this. You'll just end up in a traffic jam and watching the fireworks from your car."

It is certain that streets in the Heights, DUMBO and Fulton Ferry will be closed to traffic. Rising added, though exactly which streets was still being determined. The times of closings, he said, would depend on the crowd size.

"Our counter-terrorism concerns won't go away, so we'll be concerned about that," Rising said. "But fireworks in downtown are not new so we have plans that we've used in the past that we can put in place."

Jeers for Hook Ikea

By Patrick Gallahee
The Brooklyn Papers

About 75 Brooklynites crowded into the City Planning Commission's Lower Manhattan hearing room on Tuesday, many to express their concerns over an Ikea furniture store planned for Red Hook.

The meeting was intended to be a scoping session for the draft Environmental Impact Statement, with the public invited to request issues that they would like to see studied for the

plan to build an Ikea home furnishings store at the former New York Shipyard, a site bounded by Van Brunt Street, Columbia Street and the Erie Basin. Shortly after the meeting began, however, it began to look like a warm-up for the public review.

"This large traffic increase will be a nightmare for residents and businesses alike," one woman said.

Not that there weren't a sizeable list of concerns and suggestions for the study, with almost everyone wondering how the store would brace the neighborhood for 50,000 car trips a week.

Jo Anne Simon, chairwoman of the Gowanus Community Stakeholders Group, a coalition of neighborhood organizations seeking to replace the Gowanus Expressway with a tunnel, said, "We are concerned that plans thus far for public transportation to the site are so much fluff. People just don't take a ferry to buy a chair-fobore."

Ikea proposes adding a ferry service

and shuttle buses from the Smith-Ninth Street F and G subway station, and the Fourth Avenue F, M, N and R station at Ninth Street.

Simon asked them to elucidate in their future studies how the neighborhood will deal with the cumulative impact of Ikea, Fairway and Lowe's, the giant supermarket and home improvement store, respectively, that are also planned for Red Hook and nearby Gowanus.

She also asked how the rerouting of traffic for the six- to 10-year reconstruction or replacement of the Gowanus Expressway would factor into the plan, and called for an examination of alternative sites for the Swedish furniture store.

Lou Sones, a member of Red Hook Groups Against Garbage Sites, who was a major opponent of the Fairway Supermarket that will be built at 480-500 Van Brunt St. during its passage through the Uniform Land Use Review Procedure last year, presented a four-page list of issues he

See IKEA on page 8



Justine Duplessis and Monica McAlpin braved the rain during Pride Fest on Prospect Park West Saturday.

PRIDE IN THE PARK

Gay parade carries on despite rain

By Patrick Gallahee
The Brooklyn Papers

What a drag.

Saturday's rain washed the shoppers away, it washed the stage shows away and washed the crowds away. But by 9 p.m.'s seventh annual Brooklyn Pride parade, the spirit of the borough's gay and lesbian community was still marching strong.

"I've got my umbrella and I've got my coat," said McKenzie Granger, of Crown Heights, who joined viewers on Prospect Park West to cheer on the marchers. "I love my community. I've got to support them."

"So far, I'm having a good time despite the rain," said Kelsey, a 19-year-old marcher from Queens.

"A little rain won't dampen the spirit of Brooklyn's energetic and vibrant gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender community," said Borough President Marty Markowitz, who revved up his disco-blasting "Marty-mobile" to chauffeur Park Slope Councilman Bill DeBlasio and the parade's grand marshal, former Community Board 6 Chairwoman Irene Lo Re, during the parade.

"This is one of the largest gay communities in the United States," said Lo Re, who owns Aunt Suzie's restaurant. "It should be happening here. The Village can't have everything."

Saturday's rains began earlier than predicted and doused the planned street fair and stage events before either could get started. Merchants lamented paucy sales, and scheduled performances—including drag shows—scuttled from elected officials, poetry and comedy—were cancelled.

Last year's afternoon stage show was peppered

See PRIDE on page 8



Daniel Cahill was among the participants in the March for Jesus rally at John Paul Jones Park in Bay Ridge Saturday.

Marching for Jesus

By Deborah Kolben
The Brooklyn Papers

Steady and at times heavy rain did little to dampen the spirits of hundreds of marchers who took to the streets of Bay Ridge Saturday morning.

But they weren't outed over subway fare hikes, or unfair fines, or not being able to light up in a bar.

These marchers, in fact, came out in praise. Of Jesus, that is.

Organized by the New Hope Fellowship Church, the annual March for Jesus attracted members of 62 Evangelical Christian churches in Brooklyn.

Some danced and twirled ribbons while others sang along with the music piped from a truck leading the parade.

"Peace be to these streets in the name of Jesus," read the T-shirts most of the participants had slipped on over their long-sleeved shirts.

The March for Jesus is celebrated on the Saturday before Pentecost, the seventh Sunday after Easter, when Christians commemorate the descent of the Holy Spirit on the disciples. The celebration started in England in the 1980s and has now spread to more than 130 countries including Canada, Russia and Japan.

The march started in Brooklyn five years ago, but moved to Central Park last year. It took place in Downtown Brooklyn near Borough Hall several times.

This year the march returned to Brooklyn with a theme of healing and deliverance, according to Jerry Dominguez, the head of evangelism for New Hope Fellowship, which is at Bay Ridge and Third avenues.

Before the march began, Dominguez set up seven prayer booths along the route on Third and Fourth avenues for participants and passersby seeking prayer and guidance.

See JESUS on page 9

Ed Weintrob / When Mr. became Miss, a weekly was born

As I bicycled past the newsstand on Avenue M, a paper looking something like the National Enquirer caught my eye, a busty woman sharing its cover with the headline, "Boro Mr. becomes Miss."

I put down my dime, the price of a newspaper in 1964, and rode off with the first issue of the Brooklyn Times, a borough-wide weekly that was the brainchild of Ralph Bongiorno. A year earlier, Ralph had been production manager and sports editor of the Brooklyn Eagle in its final incarnation. Now, he was editing a tabloid that knew

how to attract readers (subsequent issues would do it without sex-change stories).

An appliance store under the el on McDonald Avenue in Gravesend doubled as the official office of the Brooklyn Times. But Ralph didn't work there (neither did the publisher, Lou Bruno, who lived next door); Ralph was based at his day job on El Tiempo, a Spanish-language daily edited by Stanley Ross, one of the Eagle's last editors.

This wasn't your typical newspaper office, and the Brooklyn Times (no relation to a paper of the



I started writing the Brooklyn Philatelist, a weekly column that was both newsy and full of Brooklyn advocacy. When the U.S. was about to issue a commemorative stamp honoring Winston Churchill,

same name published in the '80s by the Home Reporter) was certainly not your typical newspaper. What it lacked in capital, it made up for in soul.

My School Scenes column evolved into a multi-page Brooklyn Times Teen section; I'd spend most of my weekends writing, editing and laying out the Teen, then my mother or father would drive me to Gravesend as my deadline — Sunday midnight — approached.

The Teen featured school news, pop star news, contests (we got sever-

al hundred coupons for a Rolling Stones ticket give-away), teen advice and lots of teen-oriented politics (this was the '60s, after all). I wrote "teen-a-torials" about civil rights, Vietnam (in 1965, we were big boosters of U.S. intervention), testing cruises and school schedules. We interviewed the teen children of prominent politicians like mayoral candidate John Lindsay.

At dawn Thursdays, I'd rush to the newsstand at the Flatbush-Nstrand junction to be there as the delivery truck arrived, anxious to see how my section printed and to delight when one of my stories was

promoted, in "Boro Mr. Becomes Miss" style, on the front page.

And for this, they even paid me!

It was heady stuff for a 15-year-old. The Brooklyn Times, which was the nicest-looking Brooklyn weekly in those days (Ralph had the advantage of being a great editor and knowing the technical ropes), lasted four years. After temporarily publishing on a daily basis during a Manhattan newspaper strike (including, for a time, an almost-daily Teen section), Ralph and Lou got

the idea that they could become the new Eagle, a real daily, and started

raising money. But it wasn't to be.

A chance encounter with Ralph Bongiorno in the mid-'70s would help facilitate the birth of The Brooklyn Papers, a story we'll leave for another day. The Brooklyn Times was Ralph's inspiration, and his courage in starting and sustaining it in the service of Brooklyn should not be forgotten in the borough's history. In my book, he was the equal of any of the Eagle's great editors.

Ed Weintrob is founder and president of The Brooklyn Papers, now celebrating its 25th year. Write him at EdWeintrob@BrooklynPapers.com



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'Tower sale sparks park talk

By Patrick Gallahue
The Brooklyn Papers

The first question to jump into most peoples' minds when the Watchtower Bible and Tract Society of New York announced its intention to take offers on 360 Furman St., was how the 1 million-square-foot building would fit into the planned Brooklyn Bridge Park.

"There's lots of interest on every level no matter what happens to that building," said Jim Moogan, executive director of the Brooklyn Bridge Park Development Corporation, a subsidiary of the Empire State Development Corporation charged with building the 1.3-mile commercial and recreational development spanning the DUMBO and Brooklyn Heights waterfronts.

While Moogan declined to conjecture on any potential use or involvement of the park planners, he added, "We're meeting internally with our city and state partners to see what makes sense and to what level our involvement would be helpful."

As to whether the hotel planned for Pier 1 near Old Fulton Street could be shifted to the Furman Street building, several people close to the park plan were skeptical.

While no one would be quoted, one person said there was not enough public transportation near the building at Atlantic and Furman to support the hotel, citing the proximity of the A line's High Street station and a possible connection through Furman Street from the Clark Street 2, 3 line to the Pier 1 site. Others said the 360 Furman St. building was simply too large and lacked parking.

Just what interest 360 Furman St. will generate has yet to be seen, although housing has been estimated as a pretty good



The Jehovah's Witnesses building at 360 Furman St., as seen from the Brooklyn-Queens Expressway.

fit by some. Housing, however, is also one that presents significant challenges, not the least of which is that almost all of the parking at Pier 5 will revert to the park. The Port Authority of New York and New Jersey has indicated that it will not renew the Watchtower Society's parking lease, creating enormous limitations for potential residential use.

Robert Alexander, a spokesman for the Watchtower Society, said the ground floor of the building contains loading docks that can fit about 18 trucks, which could be converted into parking, but probably not enough.

"[Parking] would probably pose a challenge to any possible developer of the site," Alexander said.

Some economic development sources theorized that those challenges could give

elect officials and community leaders leverage over the private sector should they try to rezone from manufacturing to commercial use.

Brooklyn Heights Councilman David Yassky was very forward with what contributions for Brooklyn Bridge Park he would expect from a private-sector user of the building.

"I would very much like to see a portion of the revenue go towards the park maintenance," Yassky said. "I think one of the big open questions about the park is how well the funding will work."

Yassky noted that the financial analysis of the 20 percent of the park set aside for commercial ventures, including a restaurant and hotel, are now more than 3 years old.

He suggested something similar to what is used in Bat-

tery Park City where residential and commercial developments support the maintenance of the surrounding green space. Another potential mechanism he pointed to in order to levy funds for the park was Tax Increment Financing, which has been suggested by the Department of City Planning, among others, to fund the estimated \$1.5 billion cost of an extension of the 7 train in Manhattan and other upgrades to the far west side aimed at attracting both the 2012 summer Olympics and the New York Jets football team.

Tax Increment Financing (TIF) essentially designates a geographic zone for specific capital improvements and issues bonds to pay for them. Ideally, the improvements spark private development, which drives up property values, as well as property taxes, and the increased assessment is used to service the debt.

While such financing has never been used in New York City, the Bloomberg administration has shown some willingness to work with the program, or variations of it, to fund the proposed upgrades to the West Side of Manhattan for the 2012 Olympics bid.

In the case of Manhattan, the city has designated a 59-block area surrounding the Hudson Yards, while in the case of 360 Furman St., it could conceivably be done for just one block. Furthermore, with 360 Furman St., all the revenues would be new revenues since the building is currently tax exempt because it's owned by a religious organization.

"That idea you could use on a smaller scale," Yassky said of 360 Furman St. He added that he thought the TIF program could work for maintenance of the park instead of a capital project as it is traditionally used.

"It would just be a new way of using [TIF]," he said.

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No primary for S'Park's Gonzalez

By Patrick Gallahue
The Brooklyn Papers

Perennial Sunset Park candidate George Martinez will likely forgo a rematch with Councilwoman Sara Gonzalez in favor of taking a job with state Attorney General Eliot Spitzer.

Just a few weeks ago, Martinez, who is a Democratic district leader, was trying out his campaign rhetoric, but he did not file with the Campaign Finance Board for matching funds by their deadline this week. Martinez had told The Brooklyn Papers in May that he would file with the CFB.

Martinez, 29, did not return calls for comment but the attorney general's office confirmed that he has been hired to work as a community liaison in the Intergovernmental Affairs Unit.

Meanwhile, Republican Daniel Maio, 42, a Taiwanese mapmaker from Queens who briefly ran in last February's special election for the Bay Ridge council seat, has shifted his focus north to run against Gonzalez.

"It seemed to be more appropriate because [redistricting] increased the representation of Asians," Maio said of the 38th District, which includes Sunset Park and Red Hook.

The redrawn district is



George Martinez (left) will not run, while Daniel Maio will try to gain the Asian vote in Sunset Park council race.



George Martinez (left) will not run, while Daniel Maio will try to gain the Asian vote in Sunset Park council race.

about 23 percent Asian.

One of Sunset Park's most influential Asian leaders, Paul Mak, head of the Brooklyn Chinese American Association, endorsed Gonzalez in her

last campaign — a special election to replace convicted former Councilman Angel Rodriguez — last November. Gonzalez said she anticipates Mak's support once again.

Davis challenged

By Patrick Gallahue
The Brooklyn Papers

It was never a matter of if Fort Greene-Prospect Heights Councilman James Davis would get challenged for re-election, but by whom.

It seemed as if Leitia James might take another shot, and

then there were rumors that state Sen. Velmanette Montgomery was considering a run. James declined to comment and Montgomery told The Brooklyn Papers she thought about it but decided to sit out of this year's race.

Instead, three far less threatening challengers threw their

"We live in a democracy," Gonzalez said of Maio's challenge. "And anyone can run."

Maio, who has also made failed runs for Manhattan borough president and state Senate in Queens, has received the support of the county Republican, Conservative and Independence parties for this race.

He's articulate and he certainly gets into the issues in a community," said Kings County Conservative Party Chairman Gerald Kassas.

Republican County Leader Hy Singer could not be reached by press time.

Maio's colorful, albeit long-shot campaign last February, was cut short when he was thrown off the ballot because he failed to indicate on his petitions that he was running in the 43rd District.

Maio's colorful, albeit long-shot campaign last February, was cut short when he was thrown off the ballot because he failed to indicate on his petitions that he was running in the 43rd District.

hats into the ring this week when they filed for matching funds with the Campaign Finance Board.

Abraham Wasserman, Ohn-iel Boaz Askev and Anthony Herbert all filed with the CFB for 4-to-1 matching funds for the 2003 35th District race.

Despite having three potential primary challengers, Davis, a reformer who has butted heads over and over with the Brooklyn Democratic box, Assemblyman Clarence Norman Jr., has chosen to focus his attacks on Herbert, claiming the first-time candidate is waging a negative campaign by criticizing his public feuds.

"If I don't beat him by 10,000 votes, I'll leave the country," Davis said.

Herbert, a longtime resident of Prospect Heights and producer of a video magazine program on WNYE, was the first to announce a challenge to Davis, claiming that the councilman's public battles with Norman, and with Council Speaker Gifford Miller, have limited his ability to represent the district.

"We just don't need to be in a position where we can't keep building," Herbert told The Brooklyn Papers, "and James Davis' position as councilman hinders that growth because he closes the doors of opportunity."

Davis, however, challenged Herbert's allegations that his squabbles have affected his ability to represent the area and he boasted that his collaboration with Mayor Michael Bloomberg on a major Downtown rezoning plan, announced last month, has earned the district various goodies, like the possible return of B54 bus service to Jay Street.

"I'm going to work for every single vote including [Herbert's] loved ones," said Davis, sounding more like Muhammad Ali than a former police officer.

"If his family votes for him I would be surprised," he boasted.

Herbert, a former investment banker, has worked as an aide to former East New York Councilwoman Priscilla Wood-en, Brooklyn Heights state Sen. Martin Connor and Downtown Brooklyn Rep. Ed Towne. Wasserman, of Crown Heights, ran in the 2001 primary and came in third with 1,754 votes, way behind James' 5,746 and Davis' 6,691. Wasserman is a member of the Crown Heights Jewish Community Council and a borough president appointee to Community Board 9.

He did not return calls for comment.

Little seems to be known about Askev, of Fort Greene, who could not be reached for comment by press time.

Davis, who twice challenged Norman for his Assembly seat, has been an outspoken critic of the county party and its leader since replacing the term-limited Mary Pinkett by beating the party-backed James.

Davis also made news last year for casting one of the few dissenting votes against last year's 18.5 percent property tax hike. Then last February, in an apparent act of political payback, Miller ejected Davis from his membership on the Cultural Affairs, Libraries & International Intergroup Relations Committee.

Davis, whose district includes the Brooklyn Academy of Music, Museum of Art, Central Library and Botanic Garden, subsequently threatened the speaker with a federal lawsuit.

He may have solidified his base enough in the first two years, however, to beat any first-time candidates for office. See DAVIS on page 8

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Court: Leave judges out of politics

By Joel Stashenko
Associated Press Writer

ALBANY, N.Y. — The state's highest court on Tuesday upheld New York's prohibitions against

most political activities by judges and candidates for the bench.

The seven-member Court of Appeals ruled unanimously in two separate cases that

while judges have some constitutional free speech rights when seeking office, those must be balanced against the public's right to a fair and unbiased judiciary.

The decisions rearm the

state's Commission on Judicial Conduct when it comes to regulating the political activities of judges and carry extra weight in Brooklyn, where the district attorney — on the heels of three years' of judicial misconduct, much of which has been linked to the Kings County Democratic Committee — is investigating the system by which judges are selected by the Democratic Party for nomination, a near guarantee of election.

The commission's rules have been in question since last year, when the U.S. Supreme Court struck down similar restrictions in the state of Minnesota on campaign statements by judges, saying the rules violated the U.S. Constitution.

A federal judge in New York subsequently ruled the New York commission's rules dealing with the political conduct of judicial candidates were impermissibly vague.

But the Court of Appeals on Tuesday, ignoring the federal judge's ruling, said the state's restrictions on judicial campaign conduct are different than the rules thrown out by the U.S. Supreme Court in the Minnesota case.

In unsigned rulings, New York's top court said there is a compelling interest that judges not engage in campaign activities

that would compromise their judicial positions, or give the appearance of bias.

"Precisely because the state has chosen election as one means of selecting judges, there is a heightened risk that the public, including litigants and the bar, might perceive judges as beholden to a particular political leader or party after they assume judicial duties," the court said.

Likewise, it said comments by judicial candidates that indicate how they might rule on issues or regard certain defendants cannot be tolerated.

"Judges must apply the law faithfully and impartially — they are not elected to aid particular groups, be it the police, the prosecution or the defense bar," the court said. "Campaign promises that suggest otherwise gravely risk distorting public perception of the judicial role."

Following are state Commission on Judicial Conduct rules on the political activity of judges in New York.

Judges are prohibited from:

- Holding an office or being a leader in a political organization.

- Engaging in partisan political activity outside of his or her own campaign.

- Publicly endorsing or publicly opposing another candidate for public office outside

of his or her own race.

- Attending political gatherings.

- Permitting his or her name to be listed on election materials along with the names of other candidates for elective

public office.

- Personally soliciting campaign funds.

- Making pledges or promises of conduct in office other than the faithful and impartial performance of the duties of

the office.

- Making statements that commit or appear to commit the candidate with respect to cases, controversies or issues that are likely to come before the court.

— with Brooklyn Papers staff



Bloomie in Greene

Mayor Michael Bloomberg (left) visited the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene on Flatbush Avenue Extension in Fort Greene June 5 to discuss health policy affecting New Yorkers. Joining him are Surgeon General Dr. Richard Carmona (center) and city Health Commissioner Dr. Thomas R. Frieden.



New Bar prez

Gregory Cerchione (second from left) was sworn in as president of the Brooklyn Bar Association June 3 by Judge Anthony Cutrona as his children — Greg Jr., Alessandra and Francesca — and wife, Lisa look on.

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Using their heads

Muscle gives way to gray matter in chess tourney

By Jotham Sederstrom
 for The Brooklyn Papers

Mehdi Harizi, a sixth-grader at the Brooklyn New School in Cobble Hill, leaned forward, entranced by the afternoon games unfolding before his eyes. Draped in an all-black tracksuit, the 13-year-old watched the action from underneath a basket in a gymnasium at the New York City College of Technology. But Harizi wasn't marveling over slam-dunks and 3-point shots. Instead, it was opening moves and endgames that caught the boy's attention. "I like all types of sports," said Harizi. "But you need something to work your mind, not just your body. That's why I play chess."

For the record, Harizi considers the Game of Kings as much a sport as, say, basketball. And judging by the tough competition, so do his peers. Along with Harizi, more than 275 kids competing in the May 22 Scholastic Chess Championships demonstrated that chess isn't just for graying intellectuals.

Open to Brooklyn-area students of all ages and levels of skill, the event attracted kindergartners from Canarsie and high schoolers from Highland Park.

"Without chess in schools there wouldn't be as many kids playing the game," said Elliot Weiss, a coach at Edward R. Murrow High School. "Who knows what else they'd be doing after school?"

Murrow, which fields the top-ranked chess team in New York, placed first among high schools at the tournament, followed by Fort Greene's Brooklyn Tech. The win marks the team's third consecutive victory at the tournament, no surprise considering that in April the

Murrow team finished eighth in the National Chess Championships in Charlotte, N.C.

Omriy, Minevich, a Russian-born 17-year-old and one of the school's top players, finished in third place, winning three games and settling for one draw at the Scholastic championship. Alexander Lendenman, 13, a junior high national champion from 15 228 In Gravesend, took first-place honors, winning all four of his matches.

Considering we're city and state champs this year, winning it wasn't much of a surprise," said Weiss, who also teaches calculus at Murrow. "But Brooklyn Tech is a tough team, very tough. I was born in Brooklyn and grew up in Brooklyn. So it's an honor to be the Brooklyn champs."

Long established in the Bronx and Manhattan, Chess-In-The-Schools, the event's sponsor, began hosting the Scholastic Chess Championships in Brooklyn only three years ago, despite the borough's storied connection to the game.

Besides Bobby Fischer, who grew up in Crown Heights, Brooklyn has been home to Maurice Ashley, the first black grandmaster, and chess clubs still thrive in neighborhoods like Brighton Beach.

Then there's Park Slope's Fabiano Caruana, who at 10 is ranked No. 1 in the country for players under 12 and is mentioned by Bruce Pandolfini, the chess master who taught Fischer.

"Years ago there was nothing for kids," Weiss recalled. "And when there was, they had to pay."

Chess-In-The-Schools, a nonprofit that has been teaching the basics to kids in all five boroughs, began in 1986, with a handful of instructors at half a dozen elementary schools. By 1999, the program reached 160 public and private schools and more than 38,000 kids. The theory behind the program, said Stephen Herx, the organization's program director, is that chess helps develop critical thinking skills.

"Chess promotes problem-solving skills, socialization and self-esteem," said Herx. "These

three things are sorely needed in many of the kids we work with in the inner-city public school system."

Harizi, who recorded one win and three losses for the day, admitted that, compared to some of the players, he was a far cry from Mikhail Tal, one of his favorite players.

Although he learned how to play several years ago when his

dad took him to the boards at Prospect Park, Harizi wasn't serious about the game until last year, when he joined an after-school program. Now, he said, chess is as much a part of his life as basketball, another favorite sport.

"I made up one of my opening moves, but I haven't come up with a name for it yet," he said.

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July 11, 10:00 AM Lindenwood Diner 2870 Linden Blvd. Btwn. 78th & Amber St.	July 15, 10:00 AM Kellogg's Diner (Bi-Lingual) 518 Metropolitan Ave. Cross St./Union Ave.	July 16, 10:00 AM Perry's Restaurant 3482 Nostrand Ave. Btwn. Ave. U & V	July 17, 10:00 AM Vegas Diner 1619 86th St. Cross St./16th Ave.	July 23, 10:00 AM Caraville Restaurant 1910 Ave. M Btwn. 19th & Ocean Ave.

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*** Fortune Magazine, March 3, 2003** P030514.12 CMS 05/03

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Bergen knifepoint mug

By Patrick Gallahue
The Brooklyn Papers

Two women were about to enter their building on Bergen Street, between Fourth and Fifth avenues, at around 10:15 pm on June 5, when they were confronted by a menacing mugger wielding a kitchen knife.

"Give me your wallets," he demanded.

The thief grabbed the women's purses and fled on Fourth Avenue. One victim, 25, lost \$40, identification, credit cards, a cell phone and keys while the other woman, 24, lost \$40.

Game over

While one of its top-selling games, "Grand Theft Auto," makes a pastime of stealing, looting and wrecking havoc, a Sony PlayStation this week found itself on the losing end of larceny.

A man, 45, left his home on 10th Street, between Third and Fourth avenues, at around 9 am on June 6. He returned seven hours later to find his front window pushed in and miscellaneous property filched, including a Sony PlayStation, Xbox Gamestation, a digital camera, \$300 and a silver ring.

Driver's seat

A burglar copped a squat, actually two, from a 2003 Mitsubishi Linear parked on Prospect Park West, at the corner of First Street.

According to police, the thief pried open the doors and stole the two front seats, valued at \$5,800, and a driver's manual. The victim had parked the car at 9 pm on June 5 and returned at 8:30 am the following day to find his car had been unseated.

GAP mug

A man was sitting in the Grand Army Plaza subway station at 5:35 am on June 5 when, he told police, he was set upon by a mugger.

The victim, 32, said the robber approached and put a shopping bag next to him. When he looked up, the man said, "Don't look at my face. Just give me the money."

The victim handed over \$45 and the thief fled the station.

Park bike theft

A 14-year-old boy was robbed of his bicycle in Prospect Park on June 3 while riding near the boathouse at around 3 pm.

The assailant punched him

POLICE BLOTTER

in the face, pushed him from his bike and then fled the park with the boy's bicycle, according to police.

Urban cowboy

A Park Slope man was up stairs around 10:30 pm on May 23 when he heard noises in the ground floor of his house on 14th Street between Fourth and Fifth avenues.

The first floor had been undergoing renovations so he went down to investigate and saw that the plywood blocking the door had been pulled down and a man in dreadlocks and cowboy boots was standing just outside the building with the victim's tools in his hand.

The thief giddy-upped and fled to Fifth Avenue where he turned towards 15th Street. The victim pursued but didn't catch the wrangler. He did, however, retrieve his tools on the corner of 15th Street and Fifth Avenue.

No headlights

The halogen headlights of a 2001 Nissan Maxima on June 4.

Cops nab robber

The Brooklyn Papers

Police apprehended a suspected bank robber this week hours after he allegedly struck an Astoria Federal Savings Bank on Fifth Avenue between Ninth and 10th streets.

According to police, Vincent Poole, 46, of Brighton Beach, walked into the Astoria Federal Savings Bank at 10:25 am on June 9 and passed the teller a note demanding money.

The teller refused, police said, and the bandit eventually gave up and fled without any cash.

A informant's tip led police to Poole and he was arrested at his home at 9 pm on June 9.

Poole was wanted for two other bank robberies, in Sheepshead Bay, one on June 5 at a Richmond County Savings Bank, which netted \$1,100, and another on June 6, at a Staten Island Bank and Trust in which he allegedly escaped with \$2,500.

—Patrick Gallahue

Club rage

An angry motorist clubbed two men with a steering wheel lock device on June 2 at 6 am on Flatbush Avenue Extension at Concord Street, smashing a the driver's-side window, hitting the driver in the head and arm and striking a passenger on the arm. Police charged a suspect with assault.



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Weiner moves to Queens

By Deborah Kolben
The Brooklyn Papers

Rep. Anthony Weiner, who prides himself on his Brooklyn roots, recently packed his bags and headed for Queens.

After redistricting left Weiner with the majority of his constituents in Queens, the liberal Democrat representing the 9th Congressional District, moved his home, district office and voter registration to the borough to the north.

Moving his main district office from Sheepshead Bay to Kew Gardens, Queens, with a

staff of 12, the old Brooklyn office remains open, but with just one full-time staffer.

In May, Weiner went the way of his office, packing his belongings and trading his rental apartment in Sheepshead Bay for a co-op in Forest Hills.

"I've rented for my entire life," Weiner told The Brooklyn Papers this week. "The moves followed the congressional redistricting, which left Weiner with 70 percent of his 654,361 constituents in Queens. Before redistricting, the district was split evenly between the two boroughs."

Weiner lost his portions of Park Slope, Windsor Terrace, Flatlands, Canarsie, Bensonhurst and Gravesend in the redistricting, which is based on the 2000 Census.

His district still includes portions of Bergen Beach, Brighton Beach, Gerritsen Beach, Kensington, Kings Highway, Manhattan Beach, Marine Park, Midwood, Mill Basin, Ocean Parkway and Sheepshead Bay, but much of the Brooklyn end includes the unpopulated Gateway National Recreation Area in Jamaica Bay.

Raised in Park Slope, the son of a lawyer and a high school teacher, Weiner said he had his first foray into Queens as an infant. His parents moved for a short time to Rochdale Village in Jamaica.

After graduating from the State University of New York at Plattsburgh, and serving for six years in the office of then-Rep. Charles Schumer, Weiner became the youngest person elected to the City Council when he was voted in at age 27 to the Sheepshead Bay-Midwood 48th district.

In 1998, Weiner was elected to replace Schumer, who vacated his congressional seat when he was elected to the Senate.

Weiner has been mentioned as a potential Democratic challenger of Mayor Michael Bloomberg in 2005.

Borough President Marty Markowitz, the most boisterous proponent of Brooklyn, lamented Weiner's move to Queens.

"[Weiner] will never forget his roots, and we are so very

proud that he still represents an important part of our borough," said Markowitz. "Our only regret is that he doesn't represent more of Brooklyn because we don't want to share him with the rest of the city."

Some constituents are upset about the move. "I was born and raised in Brooklyn and continue to live and raise my family here. I am proud of that fact and Anthony Weiner should have been too," wrote one angry constituent, who identified himself as Duncan Donald in an e-mail

circulated to local newspapers. "I'm a Brooklyn and Queens congressman and I've been that way since the beginning," said Weiner, adding that he may have moved, but he certainly hasn't left Brooklyn behind.

The new move does put Weiner closer to both LaGuardia and Kennedy airports for his commutes between Washington, D.C. and home. That also means less time on the Van Wyck Expressway, something Weiner said he would not miss.



Rep. Anthony Weiner

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11:30-1:00 Vinyasa Cecilia	2:15-3:45 Vinyasa Cecilia	2:15-3:45 Vinyasa Cecilia	2:15-3:45 Vinyasa Cecilia	2:15-3:45 Vinyasa Cecilia	2:15-3:45 Vinyasa Cecilia
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4:00-5:30 Vinyasa Cecilia	5:30-7:00 Jivamukti Cecilia	5:30-7:00 Jivamukti Cecilia	5:30-7:00 Jivamukti Cecilia	5:30-7:00 Jivamukti Cecilia	5:30-7:00 Jivamukti Cecilia
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Exercising their minds

Muscle gives way to gray matter in boro chess tourney

By Jotham Sederstrom
for The Brooklyn Papers

Mehdi Hartzzi, a sixth-grader at the Brooklyn New School in Cobble Hill, leaned forward, entranced by the afternoon games unfolding before his eyes.

Draped in an all-black tracksuit, the 13-year-old watched the action from underneath a basket in a gymnasium at the New York City College of Technology. But Hartzzi wasn't naveling over slam-dunks and 3-point shots. Instead, it was opening moves and endgames that caught the boy's attention.

"I like all types of sports," said Hartzzi. "But you need something to work your mind, not just your body. That's why I play chess."

For the record, Hartzzi considers the Game of Kings as much a sport as, say, basketball. And judging by the tough competition, so do his peers. Along with Hartzzi, more than 275 kids competing in the May 22 Scholastic Chess Championships demonstrated that chess isn't just for graying intellectuals.

Open to Brooklyn-area students of all ages and levels of skill, the event attracted kindergartners from Canarsie and high schoolers from Highland Park.

"Without chess in schools there wouldn't be as many kids playing the game," said Eliot Weiss, a coach at Edward R. Murrow High School. "Who knows what else they'd be doing after school."

Murrow, which fields the top-ranked chess team in New York, placed first among high schools at the tournament, followed by Fort Greene's Brooklyn Tech. The win marks the team's third consecutive victory at the tournament, no surprise considering that in April the Murrow team finished eighth in the National Chess Championships in Charlotte, N.C.

Dmitry Minevich, a Russian-born 17-year-old and one of the school's top players, finished in third place, winning three games and setting for one draw at the Scholastic championship. Alexander Lenderman, 13, a junior high national champion from IS 228 in Gravesend, took first-place honors, winning all four of his matches.

"Considering we're city and state champs this year, winning it wasn't much of a surprise," said Weiss, who also teaches calculus at Murrow. "But Brooklyn Tech is a tough team, very tough. I was born in Brooklyn and grew up in Brooklyn. So it's an honor to be the Brooklyn champs."

Long established in the Bronx and Manhattan, Chess-



Aleksandr Pelekhaty, of PS 228, competes in the seventh- and eighth-grade group during the chess championship.

In-The-Schools, the event's sponsor, began hosting the Scholastic Chess Championships in Brooklyn only three years ago, despite the borough's storied connection to the game. Besides Bobby Fischer, who grew up in Crown Heights, Brooklyn has been home to Maurice Ashley, the first black grandmaster, and chess clubs still thrive in neighborhoods like Brighton Beach.

Then there's Park Slope's Fabiano Caruana, who at 10 is ranked No. 1 in the country for players under 12 and is mentored by Bruce Pandolfini, the chess master who taught Fischer.

"Years ago there was nothing for kids," Weiss recalled. "And when there was, they had to pay."

Chess-In-The-Schools, a nonprofit that has been teaching the basics to kids in all five boroughs, began in 1986, with a handful of instructors at half a dozen elementary schools. By 1999, the program reached 160 public and private schools and more than 38,000 kids. The theory behind the program, said Stephen Herx, the organization's program director, is that chess helps develop critical thinking skills.

"Chess promotes problem-solving skills, socialization and self-esteem," said Herx.

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For Erick Manigat, one of Exavier's star pupils, the game was

"These three things are sorely needed in many of the kids we work with in the inner-city public school system."

Hartzzi, who recorded one win and three losses for the day, admitted that, compared to some of the players, he was a far cry from Mikhail Tal, one of his favorite players.

Although he learned how to play several years ago when his dad took him to the boards at Prospect Park, Hartzzi wasn't serious about the game until last year, when he joined an after-school program. Now, he said, chess is as much a part of his life as basketball, another favorite sport.

"I made up one of my opening moves, but I haven't come up with a name for it yet," he said.

Daphne Exavier, a fifth-grade teacher at PS 276 in Canarsie, said that, if nothing else, chess had done for her what she had never thought possible: lure her students away from the video games.

The 28-year-old teacher, who learned how to play chess just three years ago, said she was astonished to see her four students, running wild earlier that morning, now settling down to the rows of black-and-white checkered boards. "I've never seen them this quiet," she said.

"It's like a tomb," said Herx of the near-silent gymnasium. "You can hear a pin drop. The level of concentration is really, really intense. You can almost feel how beneficial chess is to these kids."

For Erick Manigat, one of Exavier's star pupils, the game was

an exercise in memorization. Wrapping his fingers around a white plastic pawn, the third-grader made the first of five winning plays that would advance him to the second round of the tournament. In the second game, he defeated a girl from Midwood's PS 315 in eight moves.

In the third, however, the 9-year-old succumbed to Libby Devonshire, a third-grader from PS 39 in Park Slope. Manigat, who finished eighth out of 33 players in the K-3 section, nevertheless expressed regret about his showing.

"Our teacher taught us how to win in four moves," he said, "but I forgot some of the moves."

The winners

Grades K-3

1st: Vinmeet Naran, PS 39 (Park Slope)
2nd: Libby Devonshire, PS 39
3rd: Shikill Amish, PS 315 (Midwood)
Schools:
1st: PS 39
2nd: Brooklyn New School (Carroll Gardens)
3rd: PS 276 (Canarsie)

Fourth Grade

1st: Feven Berhane, PS 39
2nd: Henry Cummings, PS 39
3rd: Angelo Rosado, PS 40 (Brownsville)
Schools:
1st: PS 39
2nd: PS 180 (Borough Park)
3rd: PS 198 (East Flatbush)

Fifth Grade

1st: Christopher Murden, PS 308 (Bedford-Stuyvesant)
2nd: Dallas Milea, PS 52 (Sheepshead Bay)
3rd: William Scott, PS 308

Sixth Grade

1st: Yevgeniy Israikov, IS 228 (Gravesend)
2nd: Cesar Calendar, IS 318 (Williamsburg)
3rd: Kenny Liu, IS 318
Schools:
1st: IS 318
2nd: IS 228



Ricardo Maynard (at left), of PS 10, and Jack Brody, of Holy Name, third-graders, face off at Brooklyn Scholastic Chess Championship at New York City College of Technology.

3rd: IS 171 (Cypress Hills)

Grades 7-8

1st: Dario Mass, IS 318
2nd: Jeffrey Wang, IS 318
3rd: Nick Martinez, IS 318

Schools:

1st: IS 318; 2nd: PS 308;
3rd: IS 228

Grades 9-12

1st: Alex Lenderman, IS 228
2nd: Boris Cenderovich, Brooklyn Tech (Fort Greene)
3rd: Dmitry Minevich, Edward R. Murrow (Midwood)
Schools:
1st: Edward R. Murrow
2nd: Brooklyn Tech
3rd: IS 228



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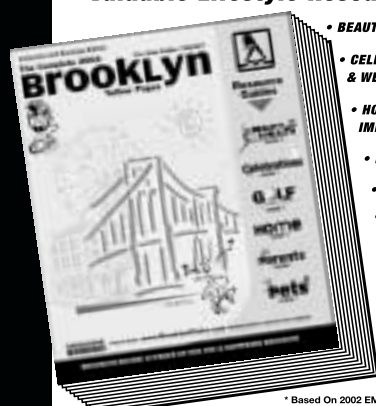
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822-15

Youth home teens nabbed in B'Hill rob

By Patrick Gallahee
The Brooklyn Papers

Two teens living at the Atlantic Avenue Transitional Center in Boerum Hill have been arrested in connection with a May 23 robbery. The robbery occurred at around 12:30 am, when two muggers forced a man to the ground at Schermerhorn and Nevins streets and stole his wallet.

The teens, residents of the long-troubled center for youths, were arrested in the mugging but later released, according to neighborhood leaders, and the charges dropped due to lack of evidence. But police say they may be connected to a recent pattern of robberies in Boerum Hill.

MacLean Guthrie, a spokeswoman for the city's Administration for Children's Services, which runs the 24-bed group home at 316 Atlantic Ave. said she knew nothing of the mugging arrests. Guthrie

did say, however, that a young resident of the center was arrested for marijuana possession last week. That resident has since been moved to another facility and was sentenced to community service.

"No other residents are currently charged with or suspected of any other crime or misdemeanor," Guthrie said. She declined to say if any residents were arrested and released recently.

Inspector Christopher Rising, commanding officer of the 84th Precinct, which covers Boerum Hill, Brooklyn Heights, DUMBO and Downtown Brooklyn, said the youths who had been arrested in the May 23 robbery were both 17 years old.

"The pattern is still under investigation," he said when asked if the May 23 incident was possibly connected to a string of robberies in Boerum Hill.

Since April 30, a gang of masked young men or teenagers is believed to

have terrorized the neighborhood in a string of at least six incidents, some of which involved a firearm.

The perpetrators of May 23's incident did not use a gun.

The group home has long been a sore point for residents who have sought to have the facility shut down. The 24-bed group home is a form of foster care, run by ACS, for youths between the ages of 15 and 21 who cannot be returned to their homes because of abuse, neglect or abandonment. Many have a history of emotional and behavioral problems and the length of stay varies from one to 90 days.

Between January and June of last year, there were 68 incidents requiring police attention at the group home, 14 of which resulted in complaint reports, which included one robbery, one assault, four petit larcenies, three counts of harassment and five missing person

Friends School store is getting the boot

By Patrick Gallahee
The Brooklyn Papers

For the last 30 years, Jane Weith, who runs the Brooklyn Friends School Thrift Shop in Cobble Hill, has outfitted every one from young women going out on their first job interviews to a transvestite dressing for a drag contest on Montague Street in the 1970s.

Last month, however, Weith was notified by her landlord that the building between Baltic and Warren streets had been sold and she'd have to vacate. Weith is one of several long-time merchants on that block of Court Street who will soon be leaving their storefronts.

The landlord also notified Nelson Martinez, who for the past 23 years has run the Martinez Grocery at 227 Court St. that he, too, would have to leave.

Martinez declined to comment but Weith is issuing an open appeal to anyone with a space in the neighborhood that she can rent.

"We have been there for 30 years," said Weith, who has not received a final eviction notice yet but said she expects to receive one "any day."

"We started this not only to raise money and scholarship funds for the Brooklyn Friends School but as a community service."

The school is located at 375 Pearl St. in Brooklyn Heights. To clear out the remaining stock Weith is currently selling bags of clothes for just \$7.



Jane Weith (at right) helps a customer at the Brooklyn Friends School Thrift Shop in Cobble Hill, which is being forced to close.

"It's beyond the laws of physics how much people can put in those bags," she quipped. "Einstein's not pleased to figure it out."

While she would not blame her landlord, she sees her ouster as a difficult reminder of how hard it is for the old-timers to stay in the now swanky neighborhoods of Carroll Gardens and Cobble Hill. Weith, who frequently hands out clean socks to homeless people, said, "It's so amazing. One person is here looking at paying \$700,000 for an apartment and another is looking for clean socks and underwear."

Across the street, at 234 Court St., Helen Abegg, owner of the Laughing Giraffe at the Monkeywelding, a toy store, was given the option to buy the storefront where she has run her business for the last 14 years. Unsure about buying and facing neighborhood rents of \$3,000 a month she opted to make her entire business virtual and mail order, having operated a portion of her company online for several years.

Like Weith, she has enjoyed a cordial relationship with her landlord and reserves criticism, instead pointing to a small business crisis citywide.

"It's across the board," she

said. "The rents are too high, not just here in Brooklyn."

As Weith, whose son graduated from Brooklyn Friends in 1976, now watches her \$3,000-a-month storefront slip away she is reaching out to churches and community organizations to help her find space.

"We'd like to be in the neighborhood because most of our clientele [is here]," Weith said. Then pausing to reflect on using the word clientele to describe the neighbors and characters that have patronized her store for three decades she said, "I laugh at using that word."

Downtown plan needs transit improvements

LETTERS

To the editor:

Regarding your article headlined "Is there a Doctoroff in the house?" [June 9], it is absolutely critical that we let Deputy Mayor Doctoroff know that the communities surrounding Downtown Brooklyn will not allow a \$100 million rezoning to take place unless serious measures are taken to improve transportation and decrease automobile traffic.

The city is talking about adding 5 million to 10 million square feet of new office, commercial and residential space to Downtown Brooklyn. The only transportation plans in the works are small improvements in the facades and stairways of existing subway stations and 2,500 new parking spaces. This is a recipe for a traffic and quality-of-life disaster of Robert Mosesian proportions.

Between Downtown Brooklyn, Atlantic Avenue, BAM, the waterfront, Red Hook and the neighboring residential communities, we are in the midst of a radical transformation of northern Brooklyn.

Rather than investing in a soon-to-be-obsolete automobile-centered future, let's use the opportunity of all this new development to implement sustainable transportation.

Let's turn Downtown Brooklyn and the surrounding neighborhoods into an example for the rest of New York City to follow. We need to be talking

about a car-free Downtown Brooklyn, a modern, modern European-style street car system, bus rapid transit, dedicated, signalized bicycle lanes, mandated indoor and outdoor bike parking, and rational zoning and parking policies that help limit automobile use in our most dense neighborhoods.

Sure, there's a financial crisis underway. But the Triborough Bridge was built during the Great Depression. We've faced worse times and we've undertaken bigger initiatives.

The end of the age of inexpensive oil and happy motoring is upon us. It's a difficult fact that will bring great changes to our lives in the coming decades.

Let's do what we can to prepare and build for these changes rather than waiting until the changes are forced upon us. Now

is the time and Brooklyn is the place. — Aaron Nagarski

Park Slope

Tourist: Make parks car-free

To the editor:

I recently spent a pleasant week in NYC, visiting fellow bicyclists and taking in your city's cultural offerings.

I had the pleasure of visiting Central Park on several occasions. Its lush greenery, paths, bridges and relative quiet just kept drawing me back.

One evening before dusk, I was thrilled by the sheer volume and energy of hundreds of cyclists, joggers and Rollerbladers. Their presence was felt by a never-ending whir of wheels and the patter of feet.

This inspiring festival of human

power doubtless repeats itself daily in favorable weather.

Unfortunately, the steady stream of smog-belching cabs and other motorized vehicles seriously undermines the safety and health of Central Park and Prospect Park users. "Some" car-free hours and "some" car-free lanes are clearly unsatisfactory. Cars must be prohibited altogether. Their unnecessary intrusion turns the park drives into noisy, hostile speedways.

People using the park for its intended purpose — a peaceful refuge from the bustle — must be accommodated first, not crammed in after the cars.

Making these parks car-free won't cost a penny. The burden of expensive road repair will be eliminated.

The confusion over what hours entrances and roads are closed will cease to exist.

I join with thousands of New Yorkers who are urging that the parks be declared car-free.

— Anne Hansen, Toronto

PRIDE...

Continued from page 1

with speeches from Sen. Charles Schumer, city Comptroller William Thompson, state Sen. Carl Andrews, Assemblyman Roger Green and DeBlasio while this year only DeBlasio and Markowitz participated in the march.

"They don't think the equipment will hold up," said disappointed parade coordinator James Griffin. "And they don't want sparks flying."

By 4 pm, the merchants' tents were closed down, after they struggled for most of the day.

Last year I might have sold 65 or 70 shirts," said Natalie Alleyne, who was selling hand-painted T-shirts. "This year I sold two."

"It's all about the weather," said a jewelry seller.

The Log Cabin Republicans, a gay and lesbian political club, may have wished they had a log cabin instead of their rudimentary tent. Still, performing outreach for the first time with the state Republican Party's support, their spirits were buoyed and they offered no complaints.

The parade went on anyway, although the reviewing stand that was supposed to have been set up on Seventh Avenue between Fourth and Fifth streets, with drag king Murray Hill as encee, was also cancelled.

Despite it all, marchers chanted and reveled in the festivities.

Said Paul Rivera, of Bushwick, "You can be free. You can be yourself."

IKEA...

Continued from page 1

wanted studied. The list was divided into subjects such as traffic, changes to local streets, jobs, schools, pollution mitigation and historic character of the neighborhood.

"Before this community goes through another divisive fight, as it did with the Fairway issue, this Environmental Impact Study must first answer some very important questions," he said.

Also an issue of concern for Sones was the cumulative impact of "box stores" crowding around Red Hook. Ikea is proposing a \$70 million, 346,000-square-foot store at Columbia and Van Brunt streets.

"It's all kind of bizarre in a way," said Jesse Masry, a lawyer representing Ikea. "Because it's not a public hearing on the project's merits but what is the breadth of the information that should be accumulated and assembled to make a rational decision."

The scope of the EIS delineates areas that will be studied in the draft EIS, including shadows, air quality, noise, construction impacts, zoning, traffic and parking.

The primary area in which Ikea studied traffic patterns and volume was within a quarter-mile radius of the site. But the secondary study area included traffic counts as far away as Sunset Park and DUMBO.

The secondary study area, which will look at likely access corridors, is bounded by the waterfront between the Manhattan Bridge and the Gowanus Expressway, to the north; the Manhattan Bridge and Flatbush Avenue and the western edge of Prospect Park, to the east; a straight line drawn from Coney Island Avenue at Hinchey Place to the Bay Ridge Channel, to the south; and the Sunset Park waterfront and Gowanus Expressway, to the west.

The scope of the EIS must be approved by the Department of City Planning in order to begin its public review. Once the scope is approved, Ikea can create a draft EIS and after the draft EIS is complete the proposal can begin its passage through the Uniform Land Use Review Procedure, which includes hearings before Community Board 6, Borough President Marty Markowitz, the City Planning Commission and the City Council.

Ikea is predicting an opening date in 2006.

In the meantime, Ikea has designed a Web site devoted exclusively to their Red Hook Plan.

The site is located on the World Wide Web at www.ikearedhook.com.

GONZALEZ...

Continued from page 3

Gonzalez appeared in Row B, the Democratic line, so conceivably voters that did not kneel down to read the fine print on the 28th column, may have thought they were voting the Democratic ticket all the way down. Martinez appeared at the bottom of the Republican line.

"Not to take anything away from his campaign," Martinez said after losing, "but clearly I'm not a Republican."

Martinez's apparent late withdrawal this year also may have hurt other potential candidates that might have run but stepped aside to aid Martinez's chance of winning.

While Rodriguez told The Papers this week that he never came to a firm decision about his candidacy, he had entertained the thought but opted against it when Martinez's determination to run became clear.

"Both of us knew pretty well that if we both ran the likelihood of defeating Sara Gonzalez would be diminished significantly," he said.

"It's unfortunate, particularly to make a decision now given that petitioning has already started and people's campaigns should have been underway for a month or two," added Rodriguez, who until recently also worked for the attorney general.

Gonzalez took Martinez's decision as an opportunity for unity in the coming years.

"Mr. Martinez is a very intelligent young man," said Gonzalez. "And both our strengths together can definitely provide the services that our community needs."

DAVIS...

Continued from page 3

face, some experts said. He even claims to have raised almost \$132,000 for this year's campaign, just \$18,000 below the limit.

"In the community he's in I think Davis is very strong," said political consultant Joseph Mercurio. "Whether you agree with him or not he seems to be making principled attacks ... It would be hard to make that a toppling charge."

There could have been far more threatening rivals to Davis this year, including James and Montgomery.

Montgomery, who had her own well publicized feud with Davis — she even left his name off a community resources list distributed by her office — said she thought about taking on the first-term councilman but then decided a race between the two would be too divisive.

"I just didn't think that it was good for the constituency to go through a grueling, ugly battle, which it would have been," the state senator said. "And I'm not sure that it would really solve any issues."



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Park buzz aplenty at Sunset Shangri-la

By Patrick Gallauee
The Brooklyn Papers

If last year's Brooklyn Bridge Park Coalition fundraiser was a celebration of the residual excitement caused by the concrete commitment of \$150 million by city and state officials, this year featured the relaxed expectancy that Brooklyn Bridge Park is going to happen.

Elected officials and guests, who paid \$75 to \$100 a ticket to attend the Sunset Shangri-la in Empire-Fulton Ferry State Park, reiterated their excitement over the planned 1.3-mile commercial and recreational development between Jay and Joralemon streets — possibly extending to Atlantic Avenue — along the waterfront.

"I predict that it will become, after Prospect Park ... the greatest place in the region to be in," said Borough President Mark Markowitz. "Brooklyn Bridge Park will be an icon," said Marianna Koval, the executive director of the Brooklyn Bridge Park Coalition. "It's our future."

The evening's honorees included Michael "Buzzy" O'Keefe, proprietor of the River Cafe, and Olga Bloom, artistic director of Bargemusic, both at Fulton Landing.

"I've only one thing to say, one thing,"

Bloom said. "Beauty makes life bearable."

Mayor Michael Bloomberg, who was also expected as a guest of honor did not arrive and emissaries from the city Economic Development Corporation and the Parks Department accepted a chocolate rendering of Brooklyn Bridge Park — created by DUMBO's Jacques Torres — in his place.

In the crowd, over wine and hors d'oeuvres, advancements in the park plan were discussed, and a buzz resounded over the Watchtower Society's unexpected announcement last week that they are selling 360 Furman St. None of the planners was willing to state concrete ideas for the property but acknowledged that it has stimulated their interest (see story Page 2).

The inclusion of Pier 6 in the Environmental Impact Statement created additional excitement among park advocates.

Two days of rain nearly caused the fundraiser to be a washout but Koval enlisted Engine Company 224, on Hicks Street at Joralemon Street, to pump water from the soggy park.

The event drew 700 guests and grossed \$140,000 for the Brooklyn Bridge Park Coalition, to support educational programs associated with the park and interim uses until it is built, such as the free summer Brooklyn Bridge Park Film Series in Empire-Fulton Ferry State Park.



Rosemarie Markgraf (president of the Brownstone Brooklyn Republican Club), Borough President Mark Markowitz and Valerie King (social chair of the Club) enjoy the Sunset Shangri-la at Empire-Fulton Ferry State Park Friday.



Brooklyn's first lady, Jamie Markowitz (at left) and Rep. Nydia Velazquez (second from right) join Sara and David Sharps from the Waterfront Museum in Red Hook.



Medina and Brian Kerrigan, Brooklyn Heights residents, take a twirl on the dance floor.



The Atlas Soul band provides music for the party.

School districts to stay open – on paper

By Deborah Kolben
The Brooklyn Papers

While the state legislature granted Mayor Michael Bloomberg greatly expanded control of the city's schools last year, some legislators have stepped up to challenge his reforms.

One of those challenges was met this week when the Department of Education settled a lawsuit brought by state Sen. Karl Kruger aiming to block the mayor from instituting his sweeping school reforms.

While both sides claimed victory, it appears nothing much has changed.

Kruger filed a lawsuit against the city in March claiming that the mayor could not eliminate the city's 32 school districts without approval from the legislature.

Under Bloomberg's system,

the current school districts will be replaced by 10 regional divisions guided by 10 regional superintendents. Those regional superintendents will oversee a group of Local Instructional Supervisors, who oversee no more than a dozen schools.

"In defiance of the law, the mayor tried to steamroll this plan through. But today the parents and children of New York City have won a huge battle against an out-of-control administration," Kruger told The Brooklyn Papers after the settlement Tuesday.

The Kruger settlement mirrors a deal brokered last month between Schools Chancellor Joel Klein and state Sen. Frank Padavan, a Republican from Queens.

Klein agreed to maintain an office in each school district and appoint a district administrator, selected from among

the 113 Local Instructional Supervisors, for each office.

In exchange, Padavan agreed to dump legislation he had introduced in the state Senate aimed at blocking the school reorganization plan.

Under this week's settlement, the community district administrators will be called superintendents. The new district offices will contain three employees — a superintendent, a parent support officer and a clerical worker.

"The key point is that we have eliminated the bloated district bureaucracies while also assuring a point of access for parents in the districts beyond those already in the schools and Learning Support Centers," Klein said in a prepared statement.

Padavan commended the settlement this week saying

that it turned the agreement he had worked out with Klein into a "legally appropriate" and binding deal.

When asked how this deal differed from the one brokered by Padavan, Kruger asked, "What agreement?"

"The new district offices this mayor would never abide by the law," Kruger said.

"There's a compliance factor which says that if they're in non-compliance we'll be back in front of the judge," Kruger added.

Borough President Mark Markowitz, who last week lambasted Klein at a meeting at Borough Hall and led a tirade against what he called "one-man rule," referring to the mayor's new position as ultimate boss of the city's public school system, heralded Tuesday's decision as a victory.

"This is an important step

in the right direction because no one person can have all of the answers when it comes to educating more than a million students," said Markowitz.

While a host of Brooklyn politicians signed on to Kruger's action, not everyone saw Tuesday's decision as a victory.

"I don't agree with everything in the mayor's [education] plan, but I would like the mayor to have a chance to succeed," said Brooklyn Heights-Downtown Brooklyn Councilman David Yassky.

"I did not support that lawsuit and I'm glad to see it settled and done with," he added. "We need dramatic change. The thrust of the mayor's plan to cut the administrative bureaucracy and move those resources to the schools themselves is the soundest right way to go."

Following Tuesday's deci-

sion, Klein announced the new 113 Local Instructional Supervisors. The list is posted on the Education Department's Web site at www.nycenet.edu.

Districts 13, 14, 15 and 16, including Brooklyn Heights, Park Slope, Cobble Hill, Carroll Gardens, Sunset Park, Red Hook, Kensington, Windsor Terrace, Boerum Hill, Downtown Brooklyn, Fort Greene, DUMBO, Prospect Heights, Crown Heights, Williamsburg, Greenpoint, and portions of Bedford-Stuyvesant and Crown Heights, will become Division 8, with 82,593 students.

Carmen Farina, superintendent of District 15, will head that division, which will be housed at 131 Livingston St., a former Board of Education building in Downtown Brooklyn.

CB2 Mgr. ousted by McRae

By Patrick Gallauee
The Brooklyn Papers

Long-simmering tensions at Community Board 2 boiled over this week as Chairman Shirley McRae ousted the board's district manager, Olanike Alabi.

And if unity has been hard to come by at CB2, then the Downtown Brooklyn board was equally divided about removing Alabi from her post, the only full-time paid position on the board.

After a more than four-hour, closed-door session that included testimony from both Alabi and McRae, the board voted 23-16, with one abstention, in favor of firing the district manager. The Finance and Personnel committee had voted 7-0 in April to remove Alabi.

Alabi, who was hired in 2000, and McRae, have shared a tense relationship since the ouster of the former board chairman, Bob Evans, from the board in December 2001. Some board members theorized that Alabi was remaining loyal to the former chairman, who had hired her, and some board members grumbled that McRae had a hand in blocking his reappointment, something McRae has denied.

Contacted by The Brooklyn Papers after Monday's vote, McRae declined to cite specific complaints about Alabi's performance, saying that personnel data is confidential. She did say, however, that the two had met to discuss whatever problems there might have been, but since then Alabi's performance had not improved.

"There's nothing personal here, this is about business," McRae said. "People who are saying it's personal I'm really disappointed in, because they should be able to rise above that and see what's in the best interest of the board."

Reached by The Papers, Alabi declined to comment. This week, board members were at odds over the removal with some seeing it as a personal vendetta, telling The Papers that the reasons presented did not seem sufficient for termination. Others defended McRae's decision, saying that since the Evans ouster Alabi's performance had declined.

Evans contacted both Borough President Mark Markowitz and Councilman James Davis this week to voice his opposition to Alabi's ouster.

"It was unfair," Evans told The Papers. "I think the same undermining tactics that were used to discredit me upon leaving the board are probably at work in this, in regards to Ms. McRae's participation in both processes."

"I do not undermine anyone," McRae told The Papers in response. "I think that you insult other people when you say that there's one person who can solely manipulate the minds of many."

Evans was replaced by his appointing authority, then-Councilwoman Mary Pinkett, on the night of his presumed re-election as chairman, and McRae was elected to succeed him. He was then recommended for reappointment by Pinkett's successor, Councilman James Davis, after Pinkett was term-limited out of office in 2001. But the recommendation was going to be rejected by Borough President Mark Markowitz, according to Davis — a move that some board members believe McRae requested. Evans ultimately removed himself from consideration.

"In all my years since 1969, and chairman once myself for a few years, what I have seen happen in the past year has been a total disgrace," said CB2 member Roy Vanasco. "The meeting was orchestrated by a few extreme members to push out our district manager."

JESUS...

Continued from page 1

"It's for people still suffering from 9-11, people having abortions, and just people who need people to pray for them," said Dominguez. The booths were dismantled once the parade began, just after 10 a.m.

"Jesus brings people to the light," said marcher Tito Rivera, of East New York, a member of the New Hope Fellowship parish.

"I love Jesus, Jesus changes our lives," said one woman marcher distributing information about Christian singles events.

"It's not about religion, it's about a personal relationship with Jesus," she added.

A few scattered spectators watched the march from the sidewalk, although most were waiting to pass through to the other side of the street.

Richard Rasput, a security guard at Victory Memorial Hospital, had just finished up a night shift and was heading home when he heard the marchers singing hymns.

"It was very nice to see," said Rasput, who watched the parade from underneath an awning along Fourth Avenue.

The march finished up in Cannonball Park, at 101st Street and Fourth Avenue, where organizers hosted a rally. Elected officials, including state Sen. Mary Golden and Borough President Mark Markowitz, presented proclamations.

While the rain may have kept some revelers away, Wayne Reyes, of the Jesus Revival Center, located near Kings Plaza shopping mall, looked at the day's weather in a more positive light.

Peering up at the drizzle and fog, Reyes said Jesus must be looking out for them.

"It was supposed to be pouring," he said.

GARSON...

Continued from page 1

She eventually wore an electronic recording device to help build the case against Garson but she declined on Monday to detail what evidence she obtained in the course of the investigation.

Hynes collected 1,009 audiotapes and 60 videotapes during the investigation of Garson, which he turned over to the suspended judge's defense team on Monday.

Garson's attorney, Ronald Fischetti, vowed to fight the charges and proclaimed his client's innocence.

The indictment against Garson alleges that between Oct. 9, 2001, and March 10, 2003, Garson accepted gifts such as cash and cigars to aid Paul Siminovsky on how to argue cases.

Siminovsky is now cooperating with prosecutors and could get off scot-free in return.

"Basically, the case [against Siminovsky] was dismissed

without prejudice, which means that it's off the court calendar but the charges could be reopened," a Hynes spokesman said.

Sources in the district attorney's office said, however, that it is likely Siminovsky will plead guilty to a misdemeanor after the Garson case is adjudicated.

Fischetti has argued that it was Siminovsky who made erroneous claims to clients that he was able to bribe the judge but never actually did so.

Others indicted in the case are Nissim Elmann, who prosecutors say brokered Garson's verdict; Levi, a litigator who allegedly agreed to pay over \$10,000 to Elmann to secure the desired outcome of his divorce case; court officer Louis Salerno, who allegedly routed cases to Garson; Rabbi Ezra Zafraim, who with his daughter, Esther Weitzner, allegedly planned to bribe the judge to secure custody for

Weitzner of her child; and Weitzner.

Since the arrest of Garson, the second Brooklyn Supreme Court judge to be charged with a felony in less than 18 months, Hynes has convened a grand jury investigation into the judicial selection process in Brooklyn, which is controlled by the Kings County Democratic Committee, run by Assemblyman Clarence Norman Jr.

The probe has reportedly begun looking into the selection of two more state Supreme Court justices, Judge Allen Hurkin-Torres and Judge Howard Ruditsky, who were unlikely candidates for elevation.

Published reports say Ruditsky raised questions because he had come in fourth in a four-way primary for Civil Court before being elevated to Supreme. In the case of Hurkin-Torres, The Post reported on Tuesday that sources allege the justice's father, a major supporter of the Brooklyn Democrats, bragged about having paid \$50,000 to have his son put on the bench.

Sources told The Post that investigators are looking into political contributions.

Hurkin-Torres did not return The Brooklyn Papers' calls for comment and Ruditsky's office said the justice was "not available." The district attorney's office also declined to comment on the two judges.

Norman would only say that the selection of both judges passed screening by the Brooklyn Bar Association, the New York Bar Association and the Kings County Democratic Committee's screening panel, which consists of long-time party allies.

ROPER...

Continued from page 1

spectable 37 percent of the vote.

Last year, she campaigned against Norman, chairman of the Kings County Democratic Committee.

Although she collected a few endorsements, including that of another party outsider, Fort Greene Councilman James Davis, as well as the New York Times and the Daily News, she was soundly defeated in the primary and general election on the Independence Party line.

Neither Roper nor her attorney, Barry Fallick, returned calls for comment.

While Ward's complaint was made to Hynes' office, it was referred to the state office of Court Administration, which appointed Maranda Fritz as special prosecutor, according to a DA spokesman.

Fritz did not return calls for comment.

Sources close to Roper were stunned by the reports of the indictment and charged that it was politically motivated.

"You run against Hynes, you run against Clarence you get indicted," said a Roper ally.

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Obesity among children in the United States has reached epidemic proportions — an estimated 25 percent of children are considered overweight.

Helping children develop good eating and fitness habits when they are young is important. "Overweight children may be developing habits that could cause health problems in adulthood. Research shows that some of these children show early signs of coronary heart disease, high cholesterol and high blood pressure," said Pramod Narula, MD, chairman of pediatrics at New York Methodist Hospital. In addition, children who are obese have a significantly higher risk for Type II diabetes, asthma and depression.

"It is very important to work with kids and parents to help children stay fit," said Dyan Hes, MD, a pediatrician at Methodist.

To this end, Hes has become a certified personal trainer. She teaches children exercises like power walking, calisthenics and simple weightlifting in her office. In addition, Hes talks with children and parents about nutrition and resources in their community, like the local Y, Boy's and Girl's Clubs and athletic leagues.

Children are bombarded with junk food, they often do not have enough access to parks and other recreational venues, and they spend a lot of time on sedentary activities like watching television and playing video games.

A recent government study of 4,000 children ages 8 to 14 found a correlation between obesity and time spent watching television.

Children who watched four or more hours a day were more overweight than those who watched two hours or less.

"Children should accumulate 30 minutes to an hour of exercise daily," said Narula.

He offered several tips to parents to help children reach the mark.

"Parents should set an example by being active themselves. Going to the park, tak-

ing walks, bike riding and swimming are great for fitness and family bonding," he said.

Participating in team sports is also a great way for children to stay fit while having fun and developing socialization skills.

"Help your child find activities that he or she enjoys. Different sports appeal to different kids, so let your child explore all the options. Your child is more likely to be active if he or she is having fun," Narula said. Narula added that team sports are only appropriate for children



Dr. Dyan Hes of Methodist Hospital examines a child. Dr. Hes treats children with and without weight problems.

over 6 years of age and that pushing an unwilling child into sports could backfire.

Narula and Hes agree that having fun and feeling good are key to helping children stay fit. "Helping children who are obese does not mean making them feel bad or at fault. It's not even about losing weight, it's about not gaining weight at the same rate. After all, kids still need to grow," Hes explained.

Children need positive reinforcement, she added, not punishment.

"Above all, it is important to help them feel good about themselves. Not everyone has to be skinny. I try to help kids feel good about their bodies and to make healthy choices," Hes said.

For more information about New York Methodist Hospital's Pediatric Practice, or for a referral to a pediatrician, call (718) 499-2273 or log onto www.nym.org.

The Brooklyn Papers PARENT

Stress-free visits to Grandma

Parent-to-Parent

By Betsy Flagler



Q: "Our granddaughters, 5 and 2, live an hour away from us. We are on good terms, but our visits are rushed. My son and his wife never want to lodge their children's naps and bedtimes, so they rush home after a two-hour visit to get the girls to bed!" — a grandmother

A: All too often, the opposite is true: Toddlers miss their naptimes and fall apart before visits are over.

"As a mother of two toddlers, I completely understand the parents' reluctance to keep their children up past naptimes," says a mother. "Children can become extremely cranky and unpleasant. Grandparents often aren't the ones left to deal with the consequences."

A grandmother can ask for a test run of small changes to create longer visits, says social psychologist Susan Newman, PhD. But remember, parents get the last call.

"You always have to respect the routines parents have for their children," says Newman.

Some grandparents interfere too much and demand too much time with their grandkids, Newman says, while others have reasonable requests to make but don't. If you decide to speak up, it's usually better to approach your child — not the spouse.

You could say, "I feel like two hours doesn't give me enough time to bond with the girls." Ask what changes you could make, such as having a crib or toddler bed available, and offer to share in the traveling for visits.

"Think about it from the parents' point of view," Newman says. "It's difficult."

Reader Debbie Migneco feels she must work her family's schedule — including visits to

grandparents — around her 3-year-old daughter because the child is a "terrible sleeper."

"If she misses a nap, or is put to bed much later than her regular bedtime, she wakes up several times during the night, which is exhausting to any parent," she says.

Both sets of grandparents live an hour away, the right amount of time for her 3-year-old's nap, Migneco says.

But what if there is an underlying, long-term issue that makes parents want to dash in and out of grandma's house? Face the issue before there's a full-blown conflict, Newman says.

"Parents need to be careful how they relate to or exclude their parents," she says. "This is an issue that husbands and wives don't talk about, but they need to talk about it be-

fore a pattern is set."

Make compromises to figure out ways to spend time with both families. Otherwise, if family time is skewed toward one side, your kids are deprived of knowing who they are, Newman says.

"Each family has a contribution to make," she says. "It may not be clear now, but years from now it will be very clear. It is an indefinable tie."

One way to get more time with your grandkids, several parents suggest, is to share in the traveling.

A mother of three children, 7, 4 and 2, says her kids' grandparents and great-grandparents have not done their part toward traveling to visit, and she is reaching her limit.

"Basically, my children would not see them at all if I wasn't making the trips," she

says. "There are no health or age reasons why my parents and in-laws can't make the drives. The kids are busy with school and activities, and I can only do so much driving and flying with them to see their grandparents."

Tips:

- Make the most of your time together. For example, if you plan to decorate cookies together, have your cookies baked and cooled. Have food coloring, sprinkles and ingredients ready to mix a simple icing with your grandkids.
- Prepare ahead as much as possible so you don't spend the entire visit cooking and cleaning up.
- A resource for memorable visits: "Grandliving" (Heartstrings Press, 2003), by Sue Johnson and her daughter-in-law Julie Carlson. Call (800) 262-1546 to order the book.

Can you help?

"My husband's two kids have lived with their mom during the school year, and with us during the summer. My stepson, 9, has started hitting his sister and teasing and fighting with my younger son, who is also 9. We think it has to do with the fact that his sister exercised her option to move in with us when she turned 12 and they've never been apart." — a mother

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The Brooklyn Papers' essential guide to the Borough of Kings

(718) 834-9350 • June 16, 2003

Designs of the times

Meet Brooklyn's own cutting-edge craftsmen at DUMBO furnishings show

By Lisa J. Curtis
 The Brooklyn Papers

Whether you go for ideas on how to make the most of your home's tight quarters, you go to hire the designer who can custom make the piece of furniture you've been fantasizing about, or you go just to order a set of mugs, Brooklyn Designs has something to offer anyone who has a home, office or home office.

The home furnishings show, an initiative of the Brooklyn Chamber of Commerce, will fill St. Ann's Warehouse in DUMBO June 13-15 with the work of dozens of Brooklyn-based artists displaying lighting, linens, rugs, furniture and decorative accessories.

Exhibitors include:
 • Brooklyn Navy Yard-based furniture designer Robert Martin, who creates an assortment of sleek furnishings including steel-and-wood dining tables, workstations and garden furniture.
 • Williamsburg-based Milder Office, whose artists fashion products for the office, home, institutional and retail environments.

• Bushwick-based Elsewhere atelier, whose artists don't shy from injecting a bit of humor into the home, like the aquarium-toilet combo, "the Aquariass."
 • Williamsburg-based interior designer Dominic Gasparoli, who has also created his own contemporary furniture collection

recent and current projects, including an artificial island in Graz, Austria, an adjustable gallery in New York, and a clothing store in Tokyo.
 On June 14, the show will be open from 11 am to 7 pm. At noon, Julie Patchesky, director of product development for West Elm, will present a talk on "Adding the Contemporary Touch." West Elm is a subsidiary of Williams Sonoma that operates its mail order catalog of contemporary home furnishings out of 55 Washington St. in DUMBO.

At 2 pm, the senior buyer for ABC Carpet & Home, Chris Kraig, will talk on the topic of "The New Baroque." The Manhattan-based store took a 10-year lease on 40,000 square feet of retail space in 20 Jay St. at Plymouth Street in DUMBO last October.

At 4 pm, a Furniture New York panel discussion will address "Commissioning Work: The Rewards and Mysteries of Custom Furniture." Furniture New York is a not-for-profit organization that supports the city's furniture trade. Led by moderator and "furnituremaker" Michael Puryear, designers Robert Martin and Scott Braun will present some of their recent custom projects and discuss the process of creating them.

Braun, vice president and programs chair of Furniture New York, manufactures his furniture in East Williamsburg. He believes the public needs to be educated about — and encouraged to explore — the commissioning process.

Braun says most designers not only do custom work but also enjoy it.

"We've been planning to do some kind of event trying to help demystify the custom commissioning process," Braun told GO Brooklyn. "People often don't even know I can do [custom work]. If a client likes someone's aesthetic, they should pursue it. Fully 90 percent of us — if not more — derive most of our income from custom commissioned work. We are willing to work with people."

Braun's 10,000-square-foot shop is open by appointment.
 "Talk to the designer, tell them about your needs, what's important to you," said Braun. "For some, it's budget; others longevity; for others, high style. These

See **DESIGNS** on page **GO 2**



incorporating African and Asian influences.
 • Navy Yard-based furniture designer Evan Hughes, who sculpts seemingly impossible curves out of wood as can be seen in his oval-shaped satinwood maple bureau and cherry wood "Mathews Library Shelving Unit."
 "This is a chance for us to showcase Brooklyn's vital creative economy," said Brooklyn Chamber President Kenneth Adams. "Our exhibitors come from across the borough. Attendees will get a chance to visit DUMBO, New York's newest home furnishings destination, to see what's new in lighting, furniture, rugs, linens and accessories from designers and manufacturers working across Brooklyn."
 Brooklyn Designs is also hosting a series of seminars, which are free with admission.
 On June 13, from 10 am to 5 pm, the show is open to trade persons only, who can register for free at www.brooklyn-designs.net. The show opens to the public at 5 pm. At 6 pm, sculptor and performance artist Vito Acconci will present the keynote lecture. He has focused on furniture and architectural installations since 1988, and his talk will cover a range of



Furnishings festival: Brooklyn-based home furnishings designers and manufacturers will display their wares at this weekend's Brooklyn Designs show. (Clockwise from top right) Scott Braun's "b&w," a calfskin and ebonized mahogany chair; Kea Carpets and Kilim's high-end rugs and tapestries; Walter Rossi's "Love Chair," fashioned from Italian-wool felt and iron with a gun-metal finish; and "Mugpie," Daniel Harper's ceramic mugs from the Elsewhere design collective.

BOOKS

Harry returns

After three long years, lonely Muggles can finally get another fix of Harry Potter and his Hogwarts wizard school cohorts. The latest fantasy tome by JK Rowling, "Harry Potter and the Order of the Phoenix" (Scholastic, \$17.99), with illustrations by Mary GrandPré, will go on sale at midnight on Friday, June 20.

Barnes & Noble [106 Court St. at State Street in Downtown Brooklyn, (718) 246-4996] will have a midnight Magic party, beginning at 11 pm, with entertainment courtesy of Justin the Magician.

The Park Slope Barnes & Noble [267 Seventh Ave. at Sixth Street, (718) 246-4996] will also sell copies at midnight and offer a Harry Potter Look-A-Like Contest, face painting, wizard hat making and giveaways beginning at 11 pm.

Both locations will have copies available for sale, but only customers who have pre-ordered the book are guaranteed a copy at midnight.
 — Lisa J. Curtis

DINING



Siro Polo Padolecchia and Deputy Consul of China, Wangxia Chen, at Marco Polo Ristorante Monday.

Venetian find

Marco Polo celebrates 20 years of fine Italian cuisine

By Lisa J. Curtis
 The Brooklyn Papers

Marco Polo Ristorante in Carroll Gardens kicked off a two-week celebration of its 20th anniversary with a lavish, six-course dinner Monday honoring the last descendant of Marco Polo, Siro Polo Padolecchia of Monte Carlo, Monaco.

The restaurant's owner, Joe Chicirico [pronounced KEE-ri-ko], had wanted to do something special for the anniversary, so he and his "PR man," Joseph Carella, began their search for a relative of the famed adventurer who traveled from Venice to China in the 13th century.

"I never thought I would find him," Chicirico told GO Brooklyn. "I sent him a letter, and he said he would be very honored to attend."

Padolecchia, who says he is the 34th generation of the Polo family and the last living relative, is a native of Venice and the president of the European Institute for Futures Studies in Monte Carlo.

He brought a decidedly romantic tone to the celebration, regaling the crowd of 150 diners with stories about Marco Polo, including his love affair with a young Chinese woman, who, much to Padolecchia's chagrin, is often omitted from the history books. He said he was currently recruiting political and financial aid to find the grave of this woman in China. He also presented Chicirico with a medal, making him an honorary president of his Marco Polo Society.

Among the guests at the dinner, which was held in the stained glass-ceilinged banquet room, were former Borough President Howard Golden, state Sen. Carl Kruger, Borough President Marty Markowitz and Carroll Gardens activist Buddy Scotto, as well as Giorgio Radiati, the consul general of Italy, and Wangxia Chen, deputy consul of China.

Waters milled about in velvet Medieval tunics with rope belts, making sure no wine glass was empty for even a moment, and the restaurant was adorned with sculptures of boats hewn from ice and flowers.

Through June 15, the restaurant, at the corner of Union and Court streets, is offering an "authentic Venetian menu" designed by Chicirico and Marco Polo's chef of 17 years, Francesco Insinga, which pays homage to their namesake's hometown.

"The Venetian menu was carefully researched in order to give our customers a taste of the famed city's culinary traditions," said Chicirico. "There is an emphasis on seafood, but it also includes cold and hot appetizers, soup, pasta, rice, meat and poultry."

From June 16 through June 22, Chicirico will offer selections from his original 1983 menu at 1983 prices (pastas: \$5.95 and

See **POLO** on page **GO 2**

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POLO...
Continued from page GO 1
entrees: \$8.95-\$19.95).
Chirico, a bit of an adventurer himself, arrived in the United States from Calabria in 1964. He opened Marco Polo in 1983, and in 1993, purchased and restored the landmark restaurant Gage & Tollner, on Fulton Street at Jay Street, in Downtown Brooklyn. (He announced Monday that Gage & Tollner will celebrate its 125th anniversary next year.)

Chirico is also the founder and president of the Brooklyn Restaurant Association, and he claims to be the first restaurateur to import truffles, porcini mushrooms and New Zealand green mussels to Brooklyn.
"Marco Polo was too elegant for the neighborhood at that time [in 1983]," said Chirico. "But the neighborhood was coming up. It was a challenge, but I like a challenge. Like Gage and Tollner. There's a very big excitement when I challenge myself. I work hard. I want to be beautiful and enrich the neighborhoods."
Markowitz presented Chirico with a proclamation declaring June 10, 2003, Marco Polo's 20th Anniversary Day.
"He wants to help all Brooklyn restaurants," said Markowitz. "Under your watch, Joe, Brooklyn has become Smith Street, and Court Street, and 86th Street and Third Avenue. You set the standard. You set the bar. No one loves this borough as thoroughly as you, Joe."
Chirico is often credited for having opened a white tablecloth restaurant rather than the stereotypical red-checked cloths, red sauce trattoria.
In fact, Monday's dinner didn't offer a single bite of pasta, which is not a Venetian dish. He did, however, offer "Rise e Bisi dei Dogi," a creamy risotto flavored with pancetta, onions, peas and Parmesan, which will be one of the anniversary dishes offered through June 15.
Reservations are required for Marco Polo's anniversary menu; call (718) 852-5015. To view the 20th anniversary menus, log on to www.marco-polo.com.



No way out: "Mazellaneous," a shelf-maze by Perry Dixon, will be exhibited at the Elsewhere design collective booth at St. Ann's Warehouse June 13-15.

DESIGNS...
Continued from page GO 1

are all things the designer can help you with. That conversation is critical." Braun also explained that when you pick out a piece from a store, you have to pay in advance and wait often four to 12 weeks—for it to be delivered.
"A custom designer will take that much time, but there's a built-in lay-away plan," said Braun. "Only 50 percent down until you get that piece. You don't have to pay in advance, so it's more affordable."
Among the items Braun will have on display are his "bonized" ("chemically altered") mahogany and calfskin chairs, a new commission in progress, a "highly curved" waterfowl table, a colorful child's rocker, a desk, nightstands, a coffee table and a bench.
Joel Hoag, one of the four designers who make up the Bushwick-based Elsewhere design collective says his artists came up with made-to-order product ideas based on gallery show

themes they generate. The collective is also a creative consultancy.
"For example, an entrepreneur came to us who wanted a toothpaste dispenser," said Hoag. "We also recently designed a line of soft-sided coolers for a piece goods company, where we just did the design work."
"All four of us will be exhibiting at Brooklyn Designs," said Hoag. "Mazellaneous, [a wood shelf designed like a maze] by Perry Dixon, came from one of the gallery shows surrounding the word 'fuse.' 'Mazellaneous' ... came from things that confuse and how much junk you collect and how confusing it can get."
In addition, Elsewhere's booth will feature Daniel Harper's ceramic set of six tear-drop-shaped mugs in a circle, "Mugpie," and Hoag's own "Squish Sink," a flexible sink made of silicone rubber.
"It came from our very first show, 'Watershed,' featuring objects for the bathroom. This challenged the idea that sinks are hard and cold," said Hoag, adding that he's had some success with the "Squish Sink."
"It's in someone's apartment now in the Village."

Elsewhere will also display Oliver Decker's "Aquatass," a Plexiglas fish tank cum toilet. "The fish are safe," assured Hoag. "There's a separate container."
Hoag explained the group's originality with the tagline, "Everybody starts somewhere, we start Elsewhere."
Caia Rossi says her partner, the artist, architect and blacksmith Walter Rossi, has a showroom in Manhattan, but makes and designs his furniture in Crown Heights.
The Walter Rossi works that will be on display at Brooklyn Designs will include new works and "a glass screen on wheels made out of neon glass tubes and a brushed metal frame, a really sleek-looking stainless steel dining room table and chairs; and some classics; like a new version of our love seat," said Caia Rossi.
Brooklyn Designs promises to not only be a showcase of fine home and office furnishings, but an exciting opportunity to meet and quiz dozens of the borough's talented artists, who have enough advice and skill to fill a DUMBO warehouse.

Guide to exhibitors

Brooklyn Designs will be on display at St. Ann's Warehouse (38 Water St., at Dock Street in DUMBO) June 13-15. The show is open June 13, 10 am-5 pm (for trade persons only) and 5-8 pm (to the public); on June 14, 11 am-7 pm; and on June 15, 11 am-3 pm. Tickets are \$10 for the general public and free for trade persons. All seminars are free with admission. Trade persons can register at www.brooklyn.designs.net. Tickets can be purchased online at www.ticketweb.com, or at the St. Ann's Warehouse box office.
Many of the exhibitors' workshops and ateliers are open to the public by appointment only. Call for locations and appointments.
Brooklyn Designs exhibitors:
3 Square Design, (212) 989-4341, www.3squaredesign.com
A Lookoff of Hues, (718) 757-8572
Burgeon Studios Inc. (917) 494-7994, www.burgeonstudios.com
Chris Ross Furniture, (718) 599-6016
City Joinery, (718) 596-4502, www.cityjoinery.com
Dform, (718) 384-6887, www.dformdesign.com
Dominic Gasparly Furniture, (718) 486-8166
DYAD Studio, (917) 612-4570, www.dyad.com
Elseware, (718) 346-0888, www.elsewareinc.com
Epoche Studios, (718) 387-6888
Eric Manigian Studio, (718) 855-9097, www.ericmanigian.com
Ethan Ames Bulder, (917) 449-0515
Evan Hughes Furniture, (718) 643-0561, www.evanhughesfurniture.com
Have Mind, (718) 782-3539, www.haveminddesign.com
Kee Carpets & Kilim, (718) 222-8087, www.keeincarpetsandkilims.com
Martel Fab, (718) 963-4780, www.martelfab.com
Matt Gagnon, (646) 226-7859, www.mattstudio.com
Michael Paryer Furnituremaker, (212) 620-9607
Milder Office Inc., (718) 382-0767, www.milderoffice.com
Modern Modular by resolution: A collection, (212) 675-9266
Rico, (718) 791-2077, www.shoprico.com
Robert Martin Designs, (718) 797-1183, www.robertmartindesigns.com
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Scott Jordan Furniture, (718) 852-4935, www.scottjordan.com
Signal Arts, (718) 855-8757
Space Manufacturers Corp. (718) 599-6722, www.spacefirms.com
Walter Rossi, (212) 228-5840, www.walterrossi.com
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WHERE To
compiled by Susan Rosenthal

THURS. JUNE 12
CELEBRATE BROOKLYN 25th birthday celebration of Brooklyn's summer festival of music, dance, word and film. Honorees include choreographer Mark Morris and former NYC Parks and Recreation Commissioner Gordon Davis. \$250 includes dinner, concert and birthday party, 5:30 to 9:30 pm. Public concert and birthday party. \$15. Armstrad. Free for concert only. Prospect Park Bandshell, North Street and Prospect Park, West. (718) 855-7882.
ELDER LAW Learn about nursing homes, Medicaid planning, asset transfers, wills, trusts, more. 4 and 7 pm. Greenhouse Cafe, 717 Third Ave. (718) 238-6500. Call Free.
PERFORMANCE "10 Stories: A Humble Offering to the Manhattan Skyline" is a series of 10-minute plays, each set on a different Manhattan street. \$15. \$12 students. 7:30 pm. Empire-Fulton Ferry State Park, Water Street between Main and New Dock streets. (212) 352-3101.
BARGE MUSIC All Beethoven chamber music program. \$35. 7:30 pm. Fulton Ferry Landing. (718) 624-2083.
GALAPAGOS ART SPACE The Red and The Black. \$5. 9 pm.

70 North Sixth St. (718) 782-5188.
WORDS/SMITH SERIES Halcyon Cafe hosts a fiction and essay reading. 7:30 pm. 227 Smith St. (718) 260-WAXY Free.
SHAKESPEARE Kings County Shakespeare Company presents "The Rover." \$15. \$7 seniors and students. 8 pm. St. Francis College, 180 Remsen St. (718) 398-0246.
ONE WORLD SYMPHONY presents Beethoven's Symphony No. 5. \$10. \$8.30 pm. Open rehearsal. \$5. 6 pm. St. Ann and the Holy Trinity, corner of Montague and Clinton streets. (917) 576-9983.
BAM presents The Royal Dramatic Theater of Sweden in "Ghosts." 7:30 pm. See Sat. Also, "Les Boreades." 7:30 pm. See Fri.
BLACK BOX SERIES Annual theater event by The Gallery Players. Box 3. 8 pm. See Sat.
GALE GATES presents "The Miami Project." 8 pm. See Fri.

FRI. JUNE 13
BROOKLYN DESIGNS Brooklyn-based designers present works at a juried show. Friday day 11 am to 5 pm. Open to the public 11 am to 8 pm. See Sat.
BREAKFAST MEETING Board of Directors of Metrotech Business Improvement District presents keynote speaker William Thompson, Jr. NYC Comptroller. 8:30 am. NY Marriott, 333 Adams St. RSVP to (718) 488-6200.
RECEPTION St. Francis College presents oil paintings by Blanca Machado. 5 to 7 pm. 180 Rem-



West. (718) 783-2298.
CULTURAL ARTS 14th annual event. 2012. Return to Forever. \$20. 8 pm. Walt Whitman Theater, Brooklyn College, one block from the intersection of Nostrand and Flatbush avenues. (718) 856-1123.
TWO BOARDS Sonido Costeno plays Caribbean Latin rhythms. No cover. 10 pm to midnight. 514 Second St. (718) 499-3253.

Don't miss it

You may know them from "La Bamba," or from more than two decades of great albums and performances but don't miss East L.A. Mex-rockers Los Lobos in a free performance June 19 at the BAM Rhythm & Blues Festival.
The noon to 2 pm concert will be at the Metrotech Commons, at the corner of Flatbush and Myrtle avenues. For more information, call BAM at (718) 636-4100 or visit www.bam.org.
BAM presents "Les Boreades," \$15, \$5, \$40. 7:30 pm. Cast of 140 are surrounded by summer blossoms, autumn leaves, winter snow and spring storms. Performed in French with English subtitles. \$10. \$75. \$30. 7:30 pm. BAM Opera House, 30 Lafayette Ave. (718) 636-4100. Also, The Royal Dramatic Theater of Sweden in "Ghosts." Performed in Swedish with English translation. \$75. \$55. \$30. 7:30 pm. BAM Harlem Theater. 651 Fulton St. (718) 636-4100.
GALE GATES presents "The Miami Project." \$12. 8 pm. 37 Main St. (718) 389-2113.
PLAT The Charlie Pineapple Theater Co. presents Sam Shepard's "True West." \$9. 8 pm. 208 North Eighth St. (718) 907-0577.
PERFORMANCE "10 Stories: A

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Willy B good

The underdog over the East River celebrates its 100th anniversary

By Yoav Gonen
For The Brooklyn Papers

Despite growing up in the shadows of the world-famous Brooklyn Bridge, the Williamsburg Bridge has endured its sometimes inglorious history to reach the age of 100. And while the bridge's physical beauty has always been a matter for debate, the importance of its contribution to linking northern Brooklyn and Manhattan's Lower East Side has never been questioned.

"Isn't it good to be assembled for something wonderful, another unique feature of Brooklyn?" asked Brooklyn Borough President Marty Markowitz, in announcing the 100th anniversary celebration of the Williamsburg Bridge, which is set for June 22.

"To achieve the young age of 100 is truly something to celebrate," he added.

Gathered at Peter Luger

Steak House in Williamsburg on Monday to help Markowitz announce the bridge festivities were Kay Turner, project director for the celebration, Ella Weiss, president of the Brooklyn Arts Council, and Transportation Commissioner Iris Weinsahl.

Speaking on behalf of City Councilman Lewis Fidler, of Mill Basin-Canarsie, his chief of staff, Bryan Lee, focused on the utilitarian nature of the Williamsburg Bridge over the years.

"This bridge has been here every day for 100 years just getting the job done, like a true New Yorker," said Lee.

Following in the wake of last month's 120th anniversary of the Brooklyn Bridge, the "Willy B," as it's affectionately called, was inevitably compared with its older sibling. But Turner,

whose role it is to bring the road from under the shadow of its East River co-habitant, has planned an almost month-long celebration for what she refers to as "the unsung, very heroic bridge of our borough."

Preliminary events began with the opening of an informal exhibition of bridge photos, taken by community members, at the Brooklyn Brewery, 79 North 11th St. last Friday. Other events will include panel discussions with historians, community activists and bridge engineers, as well as a mini-retrospective of films featuring the Willy B at Galapagos Art Space, on North Sixth Street between Kent and Wythe streets, also in Williamsburg, on June 14 at 6:30 p.m.

The main celebration on June 22 will start from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. and feature a wide range of events. Live bands will play music representing the various cultures of Williamsburg on the

to oversee a procession from Brooklyn to Manhattan of the original 45-star flag, flown from the bridge by workers in 1902.

Work in progress

The Williamsburg Bridge opened officially Dec. 19, 1903. It was constructed in just seven years—half the time it took to build the Brooklyn Bridge—at a cost of about \$24 million. The rapidity of the construction is often offered as an explanation by some, including Henry Perchia, chief engineer for the Transportation Department, for the way the bridge looked.

"They wanted it designed quickly and cheaply," he said. They didn't spend a whole lot of time on aesthetics."

Although the bridge and its designer, Leffert L. Buck, endured their share of criticism early on, proponents of the project brought attention to its notable achievements: it was the longest suspension bridge in the world (1,600 feet from tower to tower, four-and-a-half feet longer than the Brooklyn Bridge), it was the first steel-towered suspension bridge in the world, and, most importantly, it was architecturally sound and sturdy.

Or so they thought. Over time, concerns about the bridge's strength began to mount, to the point that an advisory committee was formed in 1988 to evaluate the integrity of the bridge, and to recommend whether it should be torn down and replaced or reconstructed.

"If you don't maintain a bridge, it will fall into disrepair," said Weinsahl. "Particularly for that bridge," she added, referring to its eight lanes of traffic and two lines of train tracks. "There's more wear and tear on it."

Ultimately, the city decided to repair the bridge, which extends from Delancey Street on



How sweet it is: At Peter Luger Steak House Monday, Anthony Smith, of New York City College of Technology, adjusts a sugar based replica of the Williamsburg Bridge.

the Lower East Side to Marcy Avenue, while keeping it open as much as possible.

The City DOT began reconstruction work in 1991 (after earlier construction by the State) which has continued to this day at a cost of approximately \$1 billion, according to DOT spokesperson Keith Kahn.

The work has finally entered the final phase, focusing on the subway tracks, and is scheduled to be completed in January 2006, according to Perchia. "When we finish, it's going to be as good as a brand new bridge," said Weinsahl.

Good neighbor

Neighbors of the bridge, which carries about 140,000 motorists and 92,000 subway riders daily, don't sound so sure.

"I'm surprised the [expensive] thing didn't fall down on my building," said Al Byrnes, 71, who owns the blue garage that houses Vince's General Auto

Repairs on South Sixth Street, within a block from the bridge. Byrnes' mother and father lived in Williamsburg at the turn of the century and witnessed the bridge being built, while years ago he witnessed locals playing softball under the bridge, and more recently, over a decade of reconstruction.

"They spent a fortune on it and they spent years," he said of the work. "One of our favorite activities is walking over the bridge and down into Chinatown" with their 2-year-old son, said Taroni. Her son is already able to identify the Williamsburg Bridge as a landmark, which tells him that they're almost home.

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Humble Offering to Manhattan Skyline: 7:30 p.m. See Sat. **BLACK BOX SERIES:** Annual theater event by The Gallery Players. Box 3, 8 p.m. See Sat. **SHAKESPEARE:** "The Winter's Storm." 8 p.m. See Sat. **COMEDY:** "The Women of a Woman." 8 p.m. See Sat.

SAT, JUNE 14

OUTDOORS AND TOURS

HISTORIC WALK: Brooklyn Center for the Urban Environment offers a walk around Bedford-Stuyvesant Historic District and the Museum of Contemporary African Diasporan Arts. Local artists open their studios. \$11. 5 p.m. See Sat. **WATER WONDERS:** Prospect Park Lake hosts an interactive exhibit. Learn about the park's waterways. Noon to 5 p.m. See Sat. **BIRD WATCHING:** Insectary talk. Noon. Audubon Center. Prospect Park. (718) 965-8999.

GANGS OF NEW YORK: Big Onion Tour leads a tour exploring the history, people, legends and lore of the film and Herbert Asbury's 1927 classic "The Gangs of New York." \$12. \$10 students and seniors. 1 p.m. Meet at southeast corner of Broadway and Chambers Street, lower Manhattan. (212) 439-1900.

ICE CREAM WALK: Dr. Phil's NY Talk and Walks takes a walk over the Brooklyn Bridge and stops at the Brooklyn Ice Cream Factory to enjoy the view of the Manhattan skyline and the Brooklyn Bridge. 1:30 p.m. Meet inside Bimpy's Restaurant, 30 Park Row, lower Manhattan. (888) 377-4455.

PARK SLOPE TOUR: New York Like a Native takes a walk around this neighborhood of mansions, restaurants and brownstone-lined streets. \$13. 1:30 to 4 p.m. Call for reservations and meeting location. (718) 393-7537.

HORSEHOE CRAB: Urban Park Ranger Explains show-and-tell on horsehoe crab moulting rituals. Learn about the earth's oldest living fossils. 7 p.m. Meet at end of Gerritsen Avenue. (718) 621-0021.

MOONLIGHT RIDE: Moving for a Better Environment hosts a ride through Prospect Park. 9 p.m. Meet at Grand Army Plaza. www.time-out-nyc.com.

PERFORMANCES
PIER SHOW 11: Last weekend to see Brooklyn Working Artists Coalition annual art show. Silent auction, carnival, dance, poetry performances, live music and refreshments. Also, Creative Arts Therapy Day. Invites the public to walking tours of the art exhibition. Noon to 6 p.m. Creative Arts, downtown at Beard Street Pier. Pier Show at 499 Van Brunt Street. (718) 596-2507.

SHAKESPEARE: King County Shakespeare Co. presents "The Merchant of Venice." 8 p.m. Founders Hall Theater, St. Francis College, 182 Remsen St. (212) 668-4444.

BROOKLYN YOUTH CHORUS: Family melées features 20 choristers. 2:30 p.m. Evening sessions. \$5 children under 10 and seniors. Both events take place at St. Augustine R.C. Church, 116 Sixth Ave. (718) 243-9447.

PLAY: Kings County Shakespeare Co. presents a performance of "Love Am'd, Aphra Ben and Her Pen." 8 p.m. Not recommended for children under 12. Also, "The Rover." \$15. \$7 seniors and students. 8 p.m. St. Francis College, 180 Remsen St. (718) 398-0546.

SINGLES CONCERT: Outdoor concert features music, food and a social reception. 6:15 p.m. First Evangelical Free Church, 6501

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South Ave. (718) 634-0029. Free.
PERFORMANCE: "10 Stories: A Humble Offering to the Manhattan Skyline" is a series of 10-minute plays, each set on a Brooklyn rooftop. \$15. \$12 students. 7:30 p.m. Empire Fulton Ferry State Park, Water Street between New Dock and Main streets. (212) 352-3101.

BAM: presents The Royal Dramatic Theatre of Sweden in "Ghosts" by Henrik Ibsen. Performed in Swedish with English translation. \$75. \$55. \$30. 7:30 p.m. BAM Harvey Theater, 651 Fulton St. (718) 636-4100.

BARBERS BAR: Chris Starr performs. 8 p.m. No cover. 376 North St. (718) 965-9177.

BCEC: Brooklyn Center for the Performing Arts concludes its Caribbean Celebration Series with Pat Badger's Lydian Singers from Trinidad. \$40. 8 p.m. All tickets issued for the postponed March 22 date will be honored for this date. Wait Whelan Hall, Brooklyn College, one block from the intersection of Flatbush and Nostrand avenues. (718) 951-4500.

UP OVER JAZZ CARE: Trio. Three performers. \$20 cover plus minimum per set. 9 and 11 p.m. and 12:30 a.m. 351 Flatbush Ave. (718) 398-5413.

TWO BOOTHS: Three Penny Opry plays bluegrass. No cover. 10 p.m. to midnight. 514 Second St. (718) 499-3253.

CHILDREN
ARTY FACTS: Brooklyn Museum of Art offers a talk, "Nature and Art." \$6. \$3 children and seniors. Free for members and children under 12. 2:00 Eastern Parkway. (718) 638-5000.

BROOKLYN CHILDREN'S MUSEUM: Family science workshop "Fossil Fun." 1 to 4 p.m. Also, "Isolation Island," a musical puppet show. 1 and 3 p.m. Also, meet Fantasia, a 17-foot long albino python. 2 p.m. \$4 per person. 145 Brooklyn Ave. (718) 735-4400.

THELMA HALL: Children's Dance Workshop. 2 p.m. Also, "Toneals" and "Ratley Red Tote," performances by gay and lesbian artists of color. 8 p.m. \$15. \$12 students and seniors. Triangle Theater, Long Island University, Flatbush Avenue Extension and DeKalb Avenue. (718) 875-9710.

PUPPETWORKS: "Cordelia." \$6. \$7 adults. 12:30 and 2:30 p.m. 535 East 17th St. (718) 965-9177.

STORY HOUR: Ezra Jack Keats.

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Multi-Ethnic World Music Ensemble

Spanish Harlem Orchestra
SAT 6/14 7:30PM
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Joan Armatrading
THUR 6/12 8:00PM
Legendary Singer-Songwriter

ROSAANNE CASH
FRI 6/20 7:30PM
Grammy Award Winner

ERIKAH BADU
SAT 6/21 7:30PM
Grammy Award Winner

SAW DOCTORS
SUN 6/22 6:00PM
"Emerald Isle's Greatest Rock Band"

PADRAIG STEVENS
SUN 6/22 6:00PM
Singing Songwriter

Hal Willner's Leonard Cohen Project
w/ Rufus Wainwright, Martha Wainwright, Kate & Anna McGarrigle, The Handsome Family, Marc Ribot and other special guests

Brooklyn Youth Chorus

Spring Concert Songs in Bloom
Saturday, June 14

Brooklyn Youth Chorus • Songs in Bloom
Dianne Berkun, Artistic Director

Location: St. Augustine R.C. Church
116 Sixth Avenue, Park Slope

Saturday, June 14, 2003
7:30 pm
Concert Chorus and Intermediate Division

Tickets: \$25 Preferred Seating
\$15 Adults
\$8 Children under 10/Seniors

Directions: St. Augustine R.C. Church is located in Park Slope on 6th Avenue between Broadway and Sterling Place, three blocks off Flatbush Ave. Take the 2 or 3 train to Bergen Street or the D train to 7th Ave.

For information: call: 718-243-9447 or visit: www.brooklyn-youthchorus.org

Brooklyn Youth Chorus Academy
The programs of the Brooklyn Youth Chorus Academy are made possible, in part, by public funds from the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs, with support from the Brooklyn Dellegation of the New York City Council and Brooklyn Borough President Marty Markowitz.

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Hosted by Disc Jockey Mickey B "The Prince of Rock & Roll"
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Afternoon fling

At the Brooklyn Brewery Saturday, food & beer enthusiasts spent time with the ones they love

By Tina Barry
for The Brooklyn Papers

"Rain and they shall come," could be the motto for 300 determined no-drinkers who braved lousy weather for a day of grazing and boozing in Williamsburg.

The June 7 event was the fourth annual "Crit's Choice Summer Beer and Food Festival" at the Brooklyn Brewery on North 11th Street.

Jointly sponsored by the Brooklyn Brewery and the American Institute of Wine & Food (AIWF), the festival included 20 critically acclaimed Brooklyn restaurants and 25 domestic and international breweries.

"We see beer as being part of the same culinary tradition that the AIWF was founded on," explained Tom Potter, CEO of the Brooklyn Brewery and the chair of AIWF-NY.

The AIWF was the brainchild of Julia "French Chef" Child, Robert Mondavi of the Robert Mondavi Winery and the late Richard Graff, a West Coast vintner. They formed the institution to "promote health and well-being through the enjoyment of good food and drink, and the fellowship that comes from eating together around the table."

Paying heed to the AIWF's principles, chefs participating in Saturday's festival sampled each other's dishes, and diners napped from table to table nibbling on specialties and sipping great beers.

Previous festivals spilled out onto the closed-off North 11th Street with a stage set up for the bands, a miniature golf tournament and even a hoola-hoop contest, but the rain was so heavy and steady Saturday that the band, chefs and guests all stayed inside the Brewery's cavernous tasting room. Brave souls who insisted on dining al fresco snuggled under rain-soaked tents, taking a breather between dishes, festival



Brooklyn Brewery employee dispenses beer at the Crit's Choice Summer Beer and Food Festival at the Brooklyn Brewery on North 11th Street.

guests danced to the foot-stomping country tunes of the Brooklyn Brown Grass Band.

Even the chefs whose kitchens regularly produce more haute than down-home, beer-friendly fare rose to the occasion. Saul Bolton, of Restaurant Saul in Cobble Hill, offered a meltingly tender braised pork belly surrounded by spicy red beans given a jolt of refreshing sweetened by peach salsa. Only a hearty beer like the Brooklyn Brewery's Black Chocolate Stout, with its deep, bitter chocolate and coffee aromas, or the Brewery's malty Brooklyn Brown Ale could accompany the big flavors in Bolton's dish.

Grill master Laura Taylor, of DUMBO's Superfine restaurant, used a bitter endive leaf as a canoe for smoky, jumbo shrimp. A dollop of the mysterious "Green Goddess" dressing lent the deli-

cious mouthful a retro spin.

Zakary Palaccio, of the newly opened Chickenbone Cafe in Williamsburg, served two bruschettas—a spicy version made with chopped Polish kielbasa, dill and pickles—and another of subtly flavored pork confit (meat cooked and stored in its own fat) that was cooked down to an unctuous, pate-like topping. A clean-tasting Brooklyn Pilsner helped to cut the richness of the pork.

Adding to the good-stuff-on-bread category, Sam Barbieri of Pete's Waterfront Ale House in Brooklyn Heights, placed succulent slices of his award-winning barbecued beef brisket on brisole rolls and served the sandwich with a side of sweet potato hash.

On a lighter note, Caroline Fidanza, of Diner in Williamsburg, heaped slices of French baguette with tangy artichokes



Brooklyn bites: At Saturday's Crit's Choice Summer Beer and Food Festival at the Brooklyn Brewery, chef-owner Adam Rose was on hand to serve his Brooklyn clam chowder. (At left) A Brooklyn Brewery employee dispenses another round of lager.

marinated in olive oil and lemon juice for a refreshing hors d'oeuvre.

Spins on the sandwich included the crisp mini-tostada topped with grilled shrimp and mango salsa from Prospect Height's Tavern on Dean; and the luscious duck and mushroom samosas from Ozmot's Dish in Williamsburg. Each of Joshua Shuffman's flaky, phyllo samosas was filled with sweetly sautéed duck, earthy mushrooms and most raisins; palate-cooling mint chutney served as a dip.

Marci Elliott, of Belm in Cobble Hill, preferred to leave the cooking to others. As an accompaniment to his just-out-of-the-drink Wellfleet oysters, Elliott perched a slice of lemon or lime on each half shell. For those who can't leave well enough alone, Elliott, a long time Grateful Dead enthusiast, supplied squirt bottles of sauces named in honor of his favorite

band's songs. "Mexicali," "Friend of the Devil," and "Stella Blue" were three that added spice to his contribution.

Aaron Bashy, of the Minsow in Park Slope, another restaurant specializing in simple fish preparations, lined a plate with braised cabbage and potato salad then topped the mix with diminutively sized, boldly flavored bluefish cakes. Creamy paprika aioli added a smoky note to Bashy's original dish.

Two chefs cooked to a different drummer. Adam Rose, of Soma in Williamsburg, was the single participant to offer soup—a briny clam chowder made with Brooklyn Brewery's lager—with a side of goat cheese and pecan salad tossed in a pleasantly sharp dressing.

Thomas Ferlessch, of Thomas Beist, an Austrian restaurant in Fort Greene, was the lone chef to serve dessert. His

DINING

Chickenbone Cafe (177 S. Fourth St. at Roebing Street in Williamsburg). For reservations, call (718) 352-2663.
Diner (85 Broadway at Berry Street in Williamsburg). For reservations, call (718) 486-3077.

Minsow (442 Ninth St. at Seventh Avenue in Park Slope). For reservations, call (718) 832-5500.
Ozmot's Dish (9 Berry St. at North Ninth Street in Williamsburg). For reservations, call (718) 599-6576.

Restaurant Saul (140 Smith St. between Bergen and Dean streets in Boerum Hill). For reservations, call (718) 832-5500.
Soma (192 Grand St. at Bedford Avenue in Williamsburg). For reservations, call (718) 302-9800.

Superfine (126 Front St. at Pearl Street in DUMBO). For reservations, call (718) 243-9005.
Tavern on Dean (755 Dean St. at Underhill Avenue in Prospect Heights). For reservations, call (718) 638-3326.

Thomas Beist (25 Lafayette Ave. at Ashland Place in Fort Greene). For reservations, call (718) 222-5800.
Waterfront Ale House (155 Atlantic Ave. at Clinton Street in Brooklyn Heights). For information, call (718) 522-3794.

Whim Oyster Bar (243 Degraw St. at Clinton Street in Cobble Hill). For reservations, call (718) 797-2017.

For more information about events at the Brooklyn Brewery, located at 79 N. 11th St. at Wythe Avenue in Williamsburg, call (718) 486-1422 or visit their Web site at www.brooklynbrewery.com.

For more information about The American Institute of Wine and Food, call (800) 274-2493, or visit their Web site at www.aiwf.com.

Milchkräutermadl, more of a feather-light strudel than a traditional strudel, was made with farmers cheese spread atop a puddle of sweet but not cloying vanilla sauce. It ended the feast on an elegant note. Beer and soulful didn't cut it, but the clean apple taste of Original Sin Hard Cider, pressed in New York City, paired nicely.

And there was so much more: tamales, Japanese dumplings, a roasted chicken and roast chicken salad. There was beer brewed in Maine, Vermont and Baltimore; beer brewed by Trappist monks in Belgium; German rice beer brewed in New York City; and a variety of craft beers brewed in Williamsburg, including a variety of craft beers brewed in Williamsburg, including a variety of craft beers brewed in Williamsburg.

If critics determine an event's success, then all 300 "critics" who attended the fourth annual "Crit's Choice Summer Beer and Food Festival," would give the production a unanimous thumbs up.

WHERE TO GO...

Continued from previous page...

feature the Williamsburg Bridge. 6:30 to 7 pm. Galapagos Art Space, 70 North Sixth St. (718) 625-0080. Free.

GALAPAGOS ART SPACE: Black Tie Showcase. \$5, 10 pm, 10 North Sixth St. (718) 752-5188. \$25-50. Free.

FILM SERIES: Coneys Island Museum hosts a series of films. Tonight: burlesque shorts featuring Bette Page. "This or That," a video, Coneys Island short films. \$5, 8:30 pm, 1208 Surf Ave. (718) 372-5159.

DINNER DANCE: hosted by St. Faber. \$40 includes buffet, music and more. 7:30 pm, 8th Avenue and Bay 20th Street. (718) 236-3132.

BROOKLYN PRIDE: Entertainment, food, raffles and prizes. \$10 advance tickets on sale at Spectrum 8 to 11 pm, 802 64th St. (718) 238-8213.

COMEDY: Brooklyn Brew-Ha at the Boudoir Bar. \$5 admission and two-drink minimum. 9:30 pm, 273 Smith St. (718) 624-8878.

Sun, June 15

Father's Day OUTDOORS AND TOURS: BIRD WATCHING in Green-Wood Cemetery. 9 am. Meet at Fifth Avenue and 25th Street. (718) 762-7200. Free.

STREET FAIR: Annual Seventh

Heaven Street Fair in Park Slope. 10 am to 6 pm, Seventh Avenue, from Flatbush Avenue to 15th Street. (718) 234-1165.

SUMMER SKETCHING: Brooklyn Botanic Garden offers a course on rose sketching. Bring your own pencils. \$59, 10 am to 3:30 pm, 1000 Washington Ave. (718) 623-7200.

EVERGREEN CEMETERY: Take a tour of the Cemetery of the Evergreens. 11 am. Call for tickets at info. Meet on the corner of Bushwick Avenue and Conway Street. (718) 455-5300.

FULTON ART FAIR: 65th annual event features fine art, crafts, comedy, poetry and dance. Noon to 5 pm, Fulton Street and Shuey Street. (718) 707-1457.

FATHERHOOD APPRECIATION DAY at Ft. Greene Park. Face painting, music, vendors, basketball tournament, more. Noon to 5 pm, (718) 636-6526.

GREEN-WOOD CEMETERY: Tour and talk about Green-Wood's historical, sociological, architectural, artistic, horticultural and theatrical appeal. \$6, 1 pm. Meet at Fifth Avenue and 25th Street. (718) 469-5277.

FATHER'S DAY CRAFTS: at Salt Marsh Nature Center. Wear shoes that can get wet. 2 pm. Meet at end of Gerritsen Avenue. (718) 421-2021. Free.

PROSPECT PARK CAROUSEL: like a ride on one of the 51 horses, garlands, reindeer and

dragons. \$1 per ride. Noon to 5 pm, (718) 282-7789.

PERFORMANCES

SING-A-LONG: Prospect Park hosts a concert for fathers, Mothers and Kids. 11 am, 11th Street. (718) 234-1165.

BROOKLYN MUSEUM OF ART: Last chance to see exhibit "The Last Expression: Art and Architecture." \$5, students with valid ID and older adults \$3. Free to members and children 12 and under. 200 Eastern Parkway. (718) 636-5000.

SPRING FEST: Brooklyn Botanic Garden presents award-winning documentary about NY's red-tailed hawk and his family. "Pale Male." 11 am and 1 pm. Q & A follows with filmmaker. Also, Delta blues master John Hammond performs in a solo show. \$5, 4:30 pm, 1000 Washington Ave. (718) 623-7353.

OCEANILIS: Cinema Williamsburg Sala presents "The Sea's Ok," a collection of short psychodrama. \$5, 8:30 pm, 70 North Sixth St. (718) 782-5188.

Mon, June 16

GALAPAGOS ART SPACE w/ Club, multi-media comedy group. Performances. \$5, 8 pm, Also, burlesque. No cover. 9:30 pm, 70 North Sixth St. (718) 782-5188.

BARBES BAR: Traveling Cinema Sala presents "The Tuna Man" (1984). 9 pm, 376 Ninth St. (718) 965-9717.

COMEDY: "The Wanderer" Woman Keeps a Secret. 9 pm. See Sat.

CHILDREN

BROOKLYN CHILDREN'S MUSEUM: Learn about family rituals with Meg Cox, author of "The Book of New Family Traditions." \$4, 1:30 pm, 145 Brooklyn Ave.

(718) 735-4440.

PUPPETWORKS: "Cinderella." 12:30 and 2:30 pm. See Sat.

OTHER

BROOKLYN DESIGNS: Brooklyn-based designers present their wares at a juried show. 11 am to 3 pm. See Sat.

BELLY DANCING: Learn the moves at this intro class. \$5, 6:30 to 7:30 pm, Office Ops. 57 Thames St. (718) 418-2509.

YOGA: All levels of experience welcome. \$2 per class, \$2 mat rental. 7:30 to 9 pm, Office Ops. 57 Thames St. (718) 418-2509.

GALAPAGOS ART SPACE: Klemer music. 8:30 pm. No cover. 70 North Sixth St. (718) 782-5188.

BARBES BAR: Michael Atlas, Anthony Colangelo and Jim Pugliese. No cover. Call for ticket. 376 Ninth St. (718) 965-9717.

Weds, June 18

FILM: Watch Club Video presents "North by Northwest" (1959). 7:15 pm, 157 Montague St. (718) 782-5188.

READING: Brooklyn Public Library, Central branch, presents author

Tues, June 17

MIND READING: National Council of Jewish Women. A psychic entertainer. \$5, Noon. East Midwood Jewish Center, 1625 Ocean Ave. (718) 376-8164.

FILM: St. Francis College presents "Mad in Manhattan." Noon and 5 pm, 180 Remsen St. (718) 469-5272. Free.

MEETING: Community Board 7. 6:30 pm, 4201 Fourth Ave. (718) 854-0003.

LECTURE: Bay Ridge Historical Society presents "Home Front WW2." Learn about ration tickets, air raid drills, Victory Gardens and more. 7:45 pm. Light refreshments follow. Shore Hill Towers, 72nd Street and Shore Road. Free.

GALE GATES: presents "The Miami Project." \$12, 5 pm, 37 Main St. (718) 389-2113.

AUTHOR TALK: Concerned Women of Brooklyn presents Eric Alterman, author of "What Liberal Media?" Learn how the media influences opinions. 8 to 9 pm, PS 321, Seventh Avenue between First and Second streets. (718) 622-6878. Free.

LOW BAR: Speakeasy night featuring jazz, country and funk music. Guests include Ethan Litman and Matthew Morgan. \$4, 9 pm to midnight. 81 Washington St. (718) 222-1100.

GALAPAGOS ART SPACE: Bluegrass music. 8:30 pm. No cover. 70 North Sixth St. (718) 782-5188.

UP OVER JAZZ CAFE: Hip hop music meets jazz. \$10, 9 and 11 pm, 351 Flatbush Ave. (718) 236-1560.

COCKTAIL RECEPTION: American Italian Cultural Center of Organizations holds its annual

Edward O'Donnell in a discussion of the book "Ship Abaze: The Tragedy of the Steamboat General Slocum." 6 pm, Grand Army Plaza. (718) 238-2100.

Free

FAMILY EVENT: Spoke the Hub classes perform in the Prospect Park Picnic House. Students and teachers perform. 6 to 7:30 pm. Enter park at Third Street and Prospect Park West. (718) 857-5158. Free.

MEETING: Community Board 7. 6:30 pm, 4201 Fourth Ave. (718) 854-0003.

LECTURE: Bay Ridge Historical Society presents "Home Front WW2." Learn about ration tickets, air raid drills, Victory Gardens and more. 7:45 pm. Light refreshments follow. Shore Hill Towers, 72nd Street and Shore Road. Free.

GALE GATES: presents "The Miami Project." \$12, 5 pm, 37 Main St. (718) 389-2113.

AUTHOR TALK: Concerned Women of Brooklyn presents Eric Alterman, author of "What Liberal Media?" Learn how the media influences opinions. 8 to 9 pm, PS 321, Seventh Avenue between First and Second streets. (718) 622-6878. Free.

LOW BAR: Speakeasy night featuring jazz, country and funk music. Guests include Ethan Litman and Matthew Morgan. \$4, 9 pm to midnight. 81 Washington St. (718) 222-1100.

GALAPAGOS ART SPACE: Bluegrass music. 8:30 pm. No cover. 70 North Sixth St. (718) 782-5188.

UP OVER JAZZ CAFE: Hip hop music meets jazz. \$10, 9 and 11 pm, 351 Flatbush Ave. (718) 236-1560.

COCKTAIL RECEPTION: American Italian Cultural Center of Organizations holds its annual

398-5413.

SPARKS ALE HOUSE: Kat Roche plays Nina Simone. No cover. 9:30 to 11 pm, 481 Court St. (718) 596-1940.

Thurs, June 19

R&B FEST: BAM hosts a series of outdoor music events. Today, Los Lobos plays rock, Tex-Mex and country. Noon to 2 pm. Metrotech Commons, corner of Flatbush and Myrtle avenues. (718) 636-4129. Free.

WINNIE YOGA: All levels. Students experience welcome. \$2 class, \$2 mat rental. Noon to 1:30 pm, Office Ops. 57 Thames St. (718) 418-2509.

LIBRARY EVENT: Celebrate the 100th birthday of the Williamsburg Bridge. Panel discussion with engineers from the New York DOT entitled "Celebrating 100 Years of Engineering History and Innovation." Learn about the construction and history of the bridge. 6 pm, Brooklyn Public Library, Central branch, Grand Army Plaza. (718) 238-2100. Free.

PINK DINNER: Brooklyn Botanic Garden fundraiser for 25 to 45-year-old professionals. Enjoy a garden stroll, a picnic supper on the lawn, silent auction and dancing to live music. \$100, 6:30 to 10:30 pm, 1000 Washington Ave. (718) 623-7289.

FLEA MARKET: at St. Bernadette. 7 to 11 pm, 62nd Street and 13th Avenue. (718) 236-1560.

COCKTAIL RECEPTION: American Italian Cultural Center of Organizations holds its annual

cocktail reception. 7 to 11 pm, Sorin's, 8023 13th Ave. Call for ticket info. (718) 256-2445.

BARNES AND NOBLE: Jill Kellison, author of "Sexual Healing," reads from her work. 10:00 Court St. (718) 244-4996.

Free

WORDSMITH: Romance readers feature Elise Miller, Savannah Corbush and Marjorie Wells. 7:30 pm, Halcyon Cafe, 227 10th St. (718) 244-4996. Free.

BARGEMUSE: chamber music program of all Beethoven. \$35, 8:30 pm, 1000 Washington Ave. (718) 623-7200.

GALAPAGOS ART SPACE: Squeeze Orchestra, female a cappella, presents. \$6, 8 pm, 70 North Sixth St. (718) 782-5188.

ONE WORLD SYMPHONY: presents a program of Bach and Dvorak. \$10, 8:30 pm. Open rehearsal. \$5, 4 pm, 25 Ave and the Holy Trinity, corner of Montague and Clinton streets. (718) 576-9983.

THEATER: New Impact Theater presents "The Cherry Orchard" by Anton Chekhov. \$15, \$12 students, 2 and 8 pm, 1000 Washington Ave. (718) 390-7163.

UP OVER JAZZ CAFE: Robert Glover Trio performs. \$10, 9 and 11 pm, 351 Flatbush Ave. (718) 236-1560.

BLACK BOX SERIES: Gallery Playmakers. 8 pm. See Sat.

SHAKESPEARE: "The Rover." 8 pm. See Sat.

GALE GATES: presents "The Miami Project." \$12, 5 pm, 37 Main St. (718) 389-2113.

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Global warming

Fort Greene's culinary renaissance continues: Restaurant Gia, an "American bistro," opened on Lafayette Street in February, adding to the area's ever-expanding dining scene.

Manager Tracey Grant, the sister of owner-chef Ian A. Grant (Gia derives from his initials), describes the food as "American with French and Asian touches." The chef is an alumnus of Jean-Georges and Bouley in Manhattan, and The River Cafe at Fulton Landing.

In his intention, says Tracey, was to "bring a touch of Manhattan" to his Fort Greene neighborhood. The renovated space has a glass front and is divided into a downstairs bar complete with comfortable leather chairs, and an airy, pale lavender dining room upstairs. Waitress Anna Grundstrom (pictured) delivers elegant cocktails.

Grant's dishes feature global combinations like *branzino* (sea bass) served with basmati rice, bok choy and coconut, or potato pancakes topped with smoked salmon, roasted slices of tomato "petals," and caviar.

To ease our present angst, Grant suggests a civilized, late-afternoon cup of tea in his artbook-filled library. Twenty varieties, including spiced plum and passion fruit, are served from 3 pm to 5 pm.

Restaurant Gia (68 Lafayette Ave., at South Elliott Place) accepts Visa, MasterCard and American Express. Entrees: \$20-\$24. Tuesdays to Thursdays, the restaurant serves lunch from noon to 2:30 pm, tea from 3 to 5 pm and dinner from 5:30 pm to 11 pm. The kitchen is open until midnight on Fridays. Saturdays and Sundays brunch is served from 11:30 am to 3 pm and dinner is served 5:30 to 11 pm. Closed Mondays. For reservations call (718) 246-1755. — Tina Barry

Taste of Sicily

Scopello restaurant is a welcome Italian newcomer to Fort Greene

By Tina Barry
for The Brooklyn Papers

Scopello doesn't look like other Italian restaurants in Brooklyn. Chic without being pretentious, the setting invites a diner to lean back, sip wine and ease into the evening. While the dining room has its own likeable yet hard-to-place personality, the restaurant's convivial ambience is unmistakably Italian.

On a weekend evening at this new Fort Greene eatery (it opened in February) waiters took the hands of familiar female patrons and walked them to their tables; groups of women drank and ate multi-course dinners; and children, huge napkins tucked under their chins, dug into bowls of pasta. The nascent establishment already feels like a much-loved neighborhood place.

After passing the bar, one enters the high-ceilinged dining room painted a warm orange. Tall, brown leather banquettes line both long walls. Paper lanterns stained the colors of fall leaves illuminate the tables; jazz lends an upbeat and blessedly quiet background to conversation.

Scopello is named for the Sicilian fishing village where owner Fabrizio Di Mirti spent his childhood summers.

"Our dishes," said Di Mirti, "are influenced by the Greeks, Arabs, the Normans and the Spanish. The Arabs brought saffron and sweet and sour tastes, nuts and couscous."

"Of course," he added, "Sicily is an island, so there's a lot of fish."

Di Mirti imported his mother, Ninni, and uncle Michelangelo Vitale to help create the menu. A quick glance at their offerings and it's apparent that Scopello isn't another



Fort Greene flava: Scopello bartender Fay Ku fires off a shot. (At right) The Fort Greene restaurant's grilled octopus salad, insalata di polpo.

red sauce palace. Sicily's global references are present in the caponata, a sweet and sour eggplant stew. Sardines, another Sicilian staple, are baked and stuffed with bread crumbs, raisins and pine nuts; and slices of raw swordfish "carpaccio" are paired with anise-flavored fennel in a refreshing salad.

To welcome diners, a basket of warm, house-made focaccia is placed on the table. That bread — tender and a bit chewy with the deep olive flavor of the oil — is the real thing. A ramekin of mixed olives steeped in fruity virgin olive oil with slivers of orange peel come next. Dip a piece of the focaccia into the oil that has absorbed the peel's citrus notes, and it's a delightful way to begin the meal.

On Fridays, Di Mirti receives a shipment of *burrata delle Murge*, a mozzarella flown in from Puglia, Italy. The outer part of the cheese was barely firm. Not quite set in the center, the cheese oozed when cut.

Mild and milky, nuances of fresh grass emerged as it warmed. Recommended for two, the serving could feed three or even four and is a deliciously novel way to prime the palate.

If you're not a herring enthusiast, pass on the fish and orange salad. Thick ribbons of herring are served atop a tangy mix of baby lettuce and wedges of oranges. The fish were as potent as a mouthful of seawater; paired with the sweet fruit, the combination gave a one-two punch to the taste buds. On the safer side were tiny, plump mussels served in a delicately seasoned white wine and saffron broth.

Pasta is served at least once a day at Scopello's tables, and it's well represented on Scopello's menu. House-made ravioli stuffed with mushrooms

were exquisite. Each triangle of the dough was as thin as lace. The filling was pleasingly chunky and the truffles lent their rich, earthy flavor to the pasta's velvety sauce.

The entrees are served on platters and not meant for delicate eaters. At Scopello, two "Flintstones"-sized ribs were cooked until the meat absorbed the lush flavors of the red wine sauce. They were succulent in a he-man, last meal on Earth kind of way. But the sauce, although tasty, was overly fatty, and the side of green risotto cake, flavored with spinach and arugula, was tepid and too chewy to be considered toothsome.

A better version of the risotto appeared in a pyramid of the creamy grain circled by a special of veal stew with artichokes.

Order it. The meat had more depth than most veal dishes, and those thick slices of tiny artichokes — crisp on the outside and smooth inside — are reason enough to return to the restaurant.

Among an impressive roundup of pastries, is a contender for best spring dessert — a wild berry tart served with nothing more than powdered sugar and a squiggle of caramel. Under a crown of sweet raspberries, tiny, tart, wild blueberries and blackberries, was a fluffy, lightly sweetened pastry cream. The tart's thin crust was a little cakey, like a cookie from an Italian bakery. It's the sort of simple fruit pastry served all over Italy that one can never seem to find here.

How Fort Greene, once the land of take-out food served behind bullet-proof glass, became the second coming of Smith Street, dates back to the first, brave bistro owners who opened their restaurants along DeKalb Avenue. Now a new crop of pioneers is invigorating Lafayette Avenue with great eateries. One can argue against gentrification, but there's no disagreeing that Scopello is a welcome addition to the neighborhood.

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